## Target Grazing and Wildfires

-The Role of SB 675 -

Dr. Stephanie Larson

Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC), Vice Chair



## Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC)

The Range Management Advisory Committee was statutorily created by Section 741 of the Public Resources Code of the State of California to advise the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture on rangeland resource issues.

## Range Management Advisory Committee

- 2015: White Paper Prescribed Herbivory for Vegetation Treatment Projects (updated in 2025)
- 2019 -2024: Annual Public Education Webinar and Field Day Series
   Prescribed Grazing for Fuels Management
- 2024: Grazing for Fuels Reduction Information Infographic (CWGA)
- 2023 Present: State Lands Grazing Agreement template Management Action Plan (MAP) template, and accompanying Guidebook



### SB 675

SB 675, Limón. Prescribed grazing: local assistance grant program: Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force.

Existing law requires the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to appoint a Range Management Advisory Committee and to consult with the advisory committee on rangeland resource issues under consideration by the board.

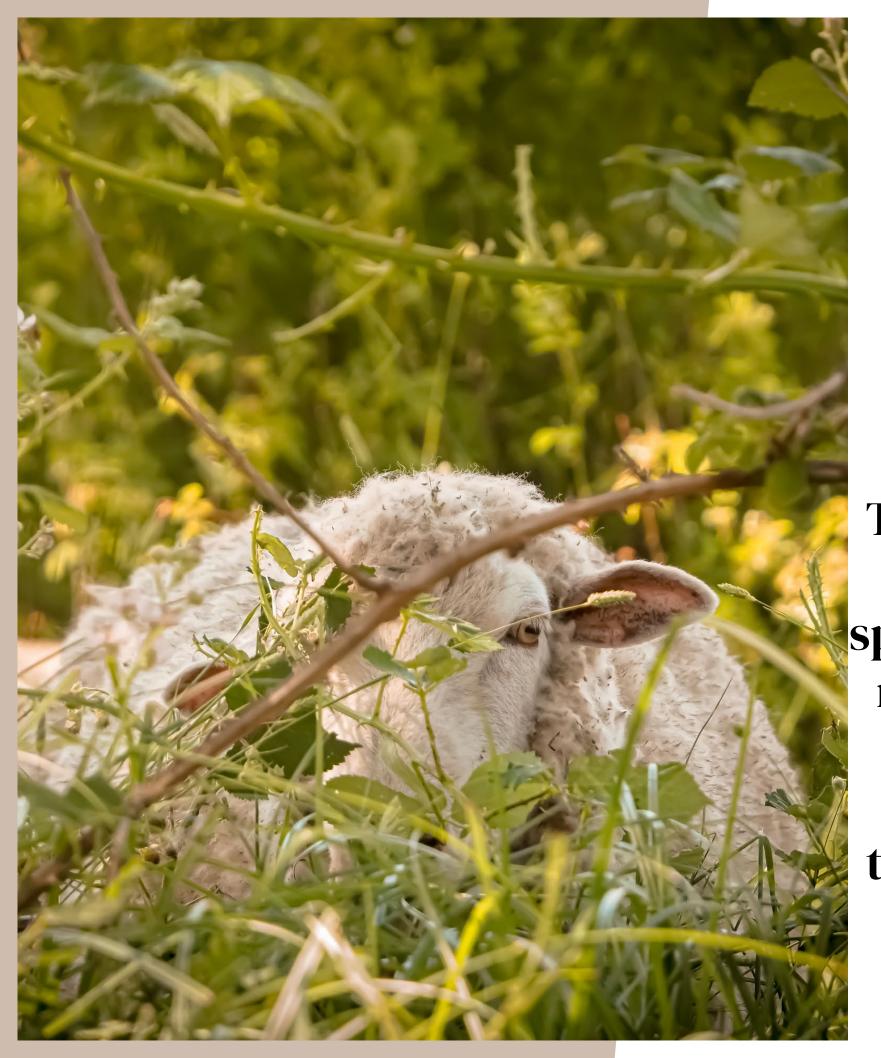
#### Task Force

Expanding Prescribed Grazing for Wildfire Resilience in California: Opportunities and Strategies for Effective Fuels Management

#### **Key Actions**

- Increase the use of prescribed grazing across all regions
- Improve regulatory efficiency in permitting and funding prescribed grazing projects
- Provide incentives for using prescribed grazing as a fuels management tool
- Expand monitoring and applied research activities





## SB 675 Requirements

The bill would require, on or before July 1, 2025, the advisory committee, in consultation with specified entities, to develop guidance for local or regional prescribed grazing plans, as provided.

The bill would require the Department of

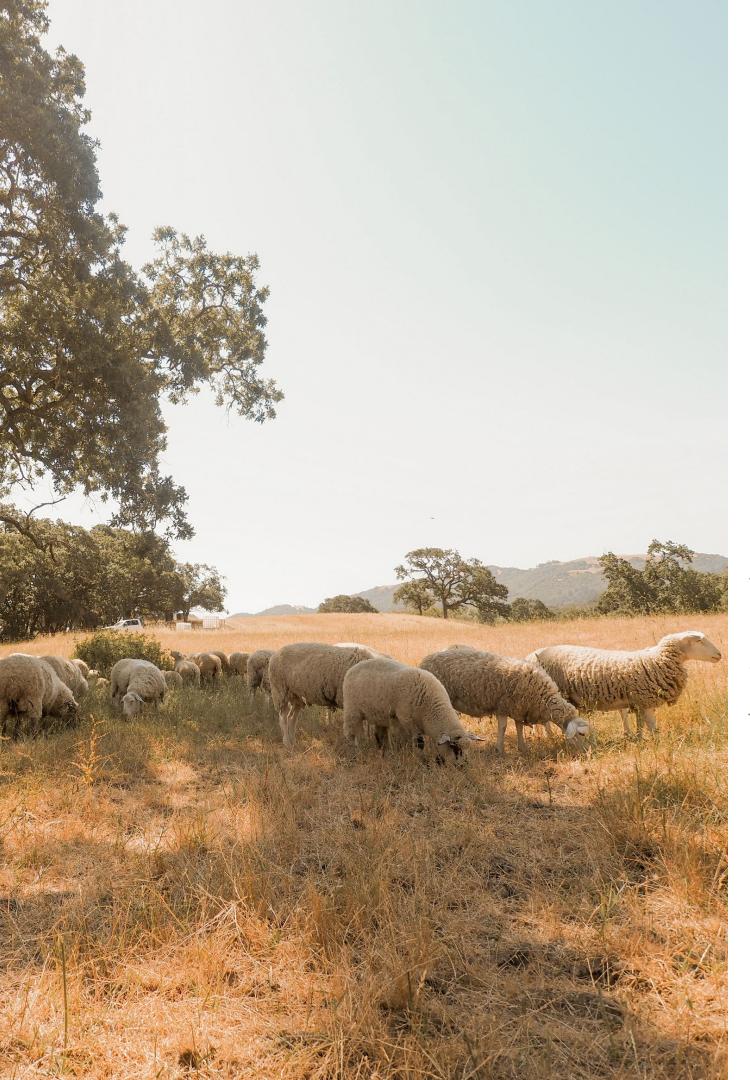
Forestry and Fire Protection (department) and the Department of Conservation to consider and incorporate this guidance in specified grant programs, as provided.



Best practices for identifying and selecting priority areas for prescribed grazing.

#### **Existing Resources to Build on:**

RMAC Rx Grazing White Paper "Site Evaluation"



Best practices for developing project plans and metrics for applying, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness and impacts of prescribed grazing.

#### **Existing Resources to Build on:**

RMAC Rx Grazing White Paper "Site Assessment"; RMAC State Lands Grazing Template; Foss & Shapero study on RDM levels & fire behavior



Best practices for using prescribed grazing to increase the diversity and abundance of native species and decrease the abundance of invasive species, including through adaptive management, exclusion areas, wildlife-friendly fencing and monitoring.

#### **Existing Resources to Build on:**

RMAC RX Grazing White Paper "Best Management Practices"; Grazing for Biodiversity in Californian Mediterranean Grasslands (Bartolome et al, 2014); other studies



Recommendations for securing sufficient land and resources; including forage, needed to pasture livestock when not engaged in a prescribed grazing project.

#### **Existing Resources to Build on:**

CWGA's Targeted Grazing Committee Match.Graze



Best practices for building community support and engaging with public and private landowners to improve the implementation and outcomes of a prescribed grazing plan

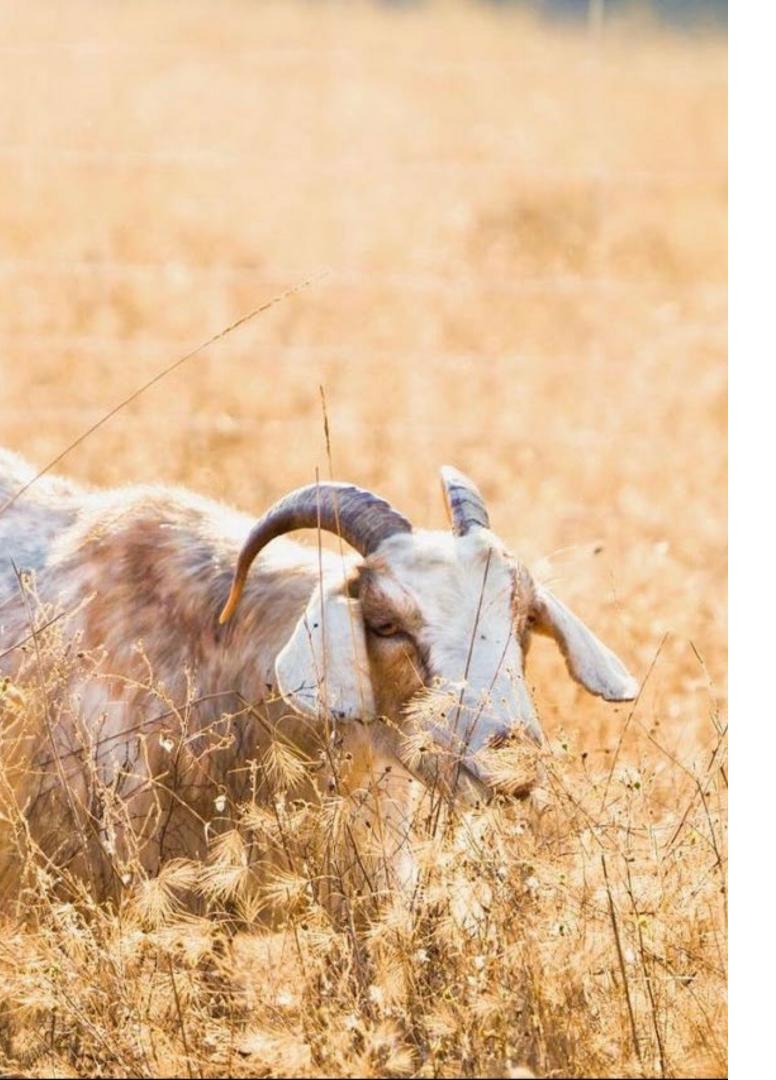
#### **Existing Resources to Build on:**

RMAC Rx Grazing White Paper "Best Management Practices"; <u>Targeted Grazing</u>, A <u>primer for Consumers</u> (Macon, 2018); CWGA's Targeted Grazing Committee



Methods to identify opportunities to house and maintain shared grazing infrastructure.

Conduct a needs assessment of the sharable tools needed for targeted grazing.



Best practices to use prescribed grazing to support and enhance prescribed burns and other vegetation management projects.

#### **Existing Resources to Build on:**

Foss & Shapero study on RDM levels & fire behavior



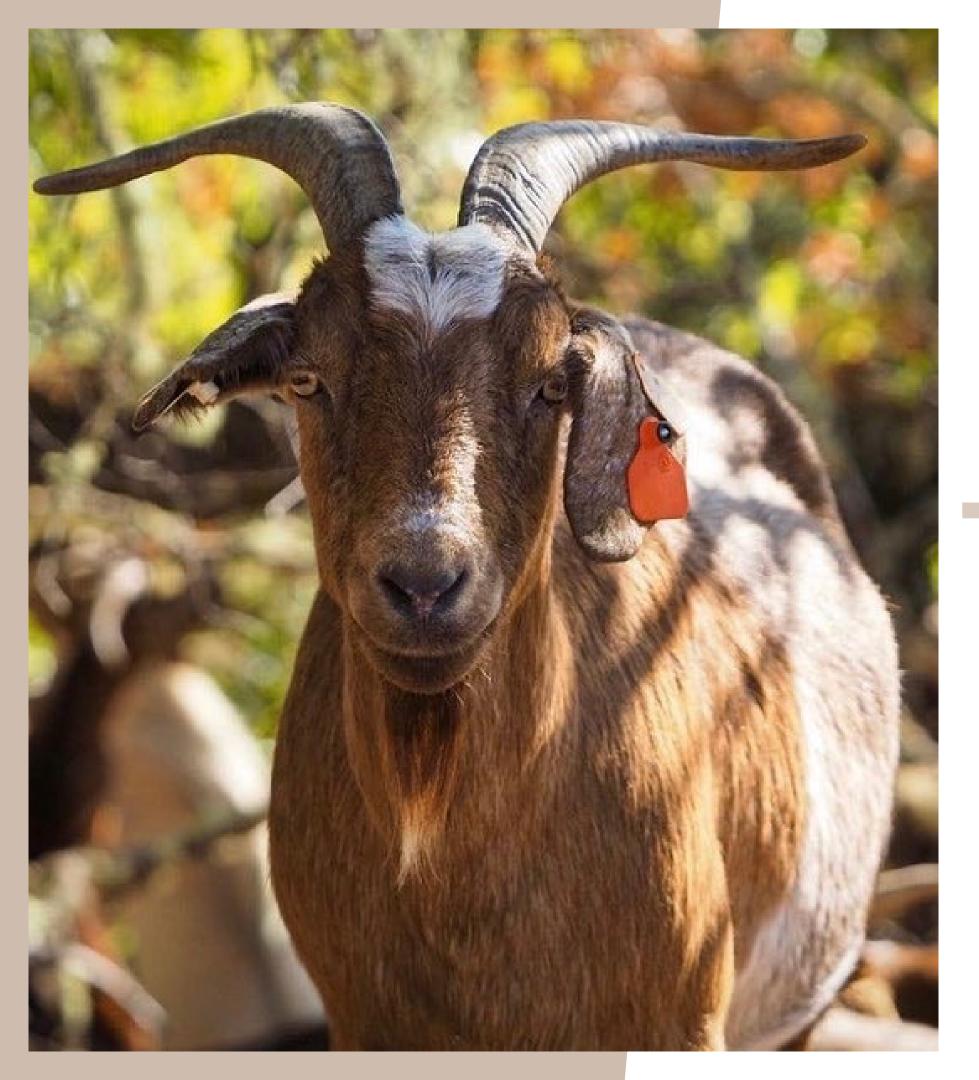
Best practices for use of prescribed grazing for reducing wildfire risk in and near fire-threatened communities, as that term is defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 4124.5.\*

\*For purposes of this subdivision, "fire-threatened communities" means those communities in high and very high fire hazard severity zones, identified by the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Section 51178 of the Government Code, or Article 9 (commencing with Section 4201) of this code, or on the "Fire Risk Reduction Community" list maintained by the board pursuant to Section 4290.1.i



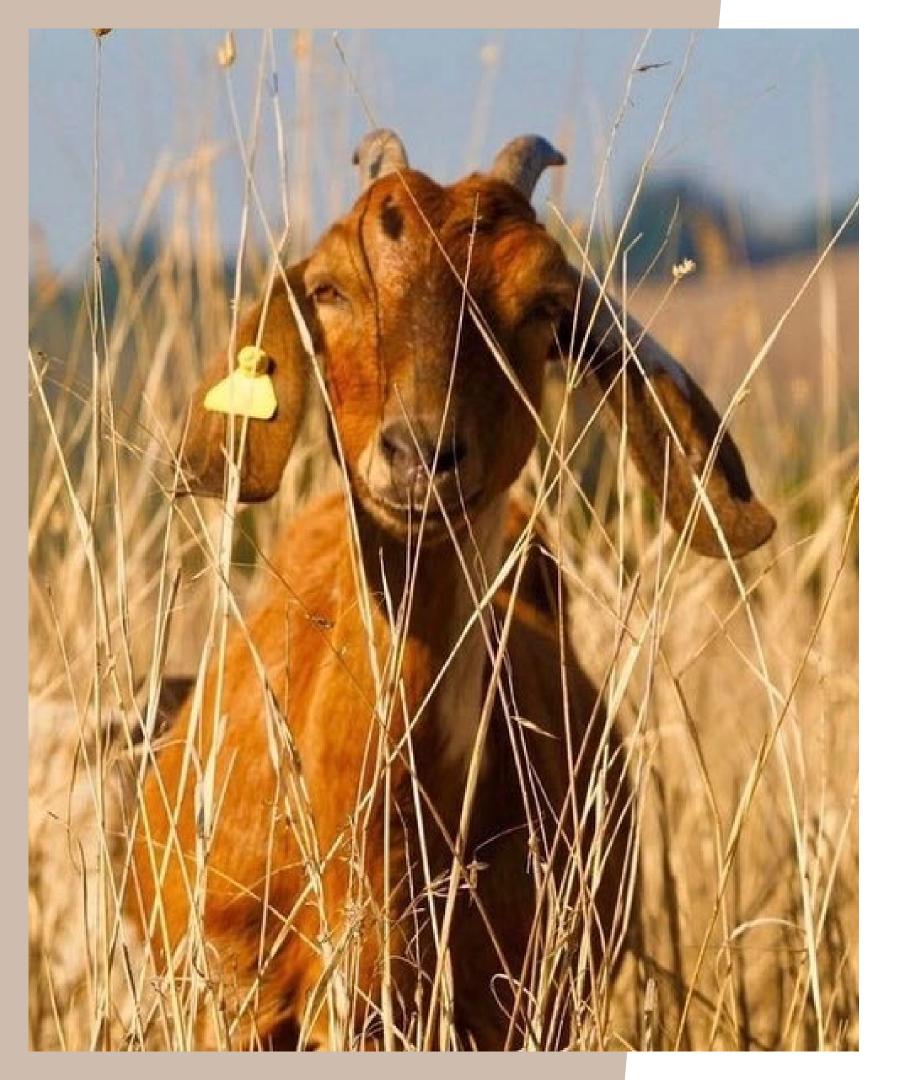
Other recommendations to increase the pace and scale of prescribed grazing at the local or regional levels, where appropriate.

Scale up where appropriate; combining private and public land grazing.



## Partners

- Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)
- Department of Conservation
- Cal Fire personnel
- California Cattlemen
- California Woolgrowers
- Fire ecologists and botanists
- UCANR Specialists & Advisors
- Fire Safe Councils



#### Resources

- Cal Invasion Plant Council (IPC)
   Map
- Cal Fire Severity Fire Zone Map
- Past & Current Research
- Past Fire History

# Questions? Dr. Stephanie Larson slarson@ucanr.edu 707-481-4403

