

RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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May 24, 2021

Eli Ilano, Forest Supervisor
Supervisor's Office
631 Coyote St.
Nevada City CA 95959

RE: Range Management Specialist position vacancies on the Tahoe National Forest

Mr. Ilano,

The Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC), an advisory committee to the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board), periodically interacts with USFS personnel in California regarding the management of national forestland, particularly where there are potential synergies as relates to the management of rangeland resources and grazing in the state.

This correspondence was initiated due to concerns raised at recent public RMAC meetings that range management specialist (RMS) positions on the Tahoe NF may be filled by individuals without specialized training in range ecology and the management of grazing animals. We know there continue to be periods of real difficulty for all federal agencies in finding RMS-qualified staff to fill these positions. Despite that, we hope that a priority will continue to be placed on finding qualified RMS staff, especially in supervisory positions.

The Range Management Advisory Committee has been conducting annual public workshops with the University of California Cooperative Extension and other professionals on topics related to the informed use of prescribed grazing for management of wildland fuels for the last several years. With properly designed allotment management plans and when supervised by individuals with the requisite training and experience, grazing can often be effective in accomplishing many environmental objectives, including fine fuel reductions.

If finding qualified RMS staff has, in fact, been a difficulty for the Tahoe NF in recent years, the RMAC would like to offer such help as it can to get word of recruitments out among its stakeholders and member organizations.

Best Regards,

Marc R. Horney, Ph.D.
Chair, California Range Management Advisory Committee