

RMAC Annual Priorities Discussion – Brainstorming Session

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., CDFG, 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.

- **Increase collaboration and joint educational opportunities for RPFs and CRMs**
 - To address potential bias in forestry community toward Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) as being more suited to develop and implement burn plans than Certified Rangeland Managers (CRMs); there could be opportunities to rectify this, perhaps via combined training programs with both RPFs and CRMs to develop burn plans.
- **Increase the number of CRMs, and utilization of them, in California**
 - Regarding the CRM program (Objective 2(a)), currently Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) are developing burn plans and often not consulting with anyone that has range experience. Moreover, cattle producers are being asked NOT to graze for many months so that a burn can occur, and then are not being allowed to graze thereafter. Invasive plants and land management are not being considered, and instead, the goal of just burning MORE acres remains the focus. Additionally, there are only 86 CRMs left in the State, and the RMAC needs to promote that program. CAL FIRE should be hiring CRMs and folks with range background in developing burn plans. Note Susan Marshall's efforts re: training for CRM qualification.
- **Develop educational opportunities and outreach re: fuel reduction methods**
 - Grazing is considered a fuel reduction method in the State's Wildfire Resilience Action Plan, so some coordination with CAL FIRE may be in order. Is there already existing infrastructure for this kind of communication and coordination, and if not, can we help facilitate that?
- **Develop research plan, and identify and procure funding sources**
 - Potential for the RMAC to develop research priorities and seek funding; this is related to Objective 4 (Monitor for issues in rangeland science and management); the RMAC could not just identify data gaps, but also help to fill them. Perhaps seek matched funding sources.
 - Potential for federal funding or collaborations as appropriate?
 - Note the CDFG mandates under the FAC 7271 and 7273
- **Increase collaborations with related agencies and bodies**, including the California Natural Reserve System interactions between RMAC and the California Natural Reserve System and entities such as the California Rangeland Trust
- **Water Pollution Regulation, Ground Water Regulation**

Potential white papers on this topic, need more clarity as conditions change (Dept of Water Resources, Groundwater Sustainability agencies) – overlap with CDFG programs that fund pump efficiency upgrades on wells.

Note: at this time, the current annual priorities will likely include (as Action Items/Strategies to accomplish Goals/Objectives/Priorities):

- 1) **the efforts by the RMAC subcommittee on State Lands Grazing License and Land Management (SLGLLM); and**
- 2) **RMAC Educational Workshop Series.**