

The below pages were extracted from the 2024 RMAC Annual Report & Workplan, and status updates were made live in [Table 4](#), below, at the May 19, 2025 RMAC meeting to report on status of each Objective.

PROGRESS REPORTING FOR 2025 RMAC ANNUAL PRIORITIES

In 2025, the RMAC's overarching priorities (see the full [RMAC 2024 Annual Report and Workplan](#),¹ **Priorities I through IV**) remained the same, but Goals 1 and 3 were combined due to the inherent relationship between the development and dissemination of guidance around livestock grazing and rangeland resource management. As such, the Objectives were also shuffled and revised to reflect this restructuring (see Table 1 in the full [RMAC 2024 Annual Report and Workplan](#)¹), along with considerations around changes in the RMAC's priorities, member ability to meet objectives, and the foreseeable severe limitation in staffing (15% of one full-time Senior Environmental Scientist), resources (no additional resources provided), and budget (no RMAC budget).

2025 RMAC Goals and Purpose

GOAL 1: Develop and promote appropriate rangeland resource management guidance to support fuels management and other ecosystem services.

Purpose: Prescribed grazing is a valuable tool for vegetation management but can be complex and difficult to manage for multiple outcomes and successful outcomes may require high levels of expertise. There is a need to further support prescribed grazing as a practical option for state land management agencies, where appropriate and suitable for accomplishing ecological, environmental, and cultural objectives—especially where complementary to State goals and targets—and can be managed to produce results consistent with requirements of environmental regulatory agencies. To address this, the RMAC may develop and/or promote appropriate guidance for grazing before and following wildfire on California rangelands. The combined expertise of the RMAC members and stakeholders is a valuable resource that the RMAC can leverage to support the dissemination of practicable, data-driven information to assist land managers in the proper application best management practices. The RMAC will also monitor livestock policies required by state lands managers for consistency with the best available science identified by UCCE/UC ANR and other state efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change (e.g., [California's Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy](#)²). Grazing is a fuel reduction method in the [State's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#),³ but few professionals in the state have the necessary experience to develop feasible grazing plans for this purpose. This Goal dovetails with new mandates in SB 675 related to prescribed grazing guidance at the local, regional, and state levels. These efforts will also provide guidance and resources to support improved range management practices at a broader scale across the livestock industry, will support the provisioning of ecosystem services, and support resilient communities. These efforts will also support California's Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets, which include ambitious, science-driven targets for activities related to rangeland management. For example, the targets call for 33.5 million acres of forests, shrublands and chaparral, and grasslands managed to reduce wildfire risk, including prescribed herbivory, by 2045.

¹ <https://calfire-umb05.azurewebsites.net/media/vgcnujve/2024-rmac-annual-report-and-workplan-final.pdf>

² <https://resources.ca.gov/initiatives/expanding-nature-based-solutions>

³ <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/californiawildfireandforestresilienceactionplan.pdf>

Additionally, the targets call for 1 million acres of grasslands restoration by 2045, which includes prescribed grazing in line with California's Climate Smart Lands Strategy.

GOAL 2: Support outreach, education, and workforce development to build rangeland management expertise in the State.

Purpose: There are 77 registered CRMs left in the State, with approximately 25% working as rangeland managers. RMAC needs to promote leveraging that expertise where appropriate or required, including within CAL FIRE for developing burn plans and conducting prescribed burning in rangelands, mixed range-forest systems, and shrublands. There is a need to integrate and coordinate Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) with Certified Rangeland Managers (CRMs) for the purpose of developing effective fuels management treatments from their different but complementary professional backgrounds, for example, via combined training programs with both RPFs and CRMs to develop burn plans integrated with other fuel treatment activities, including prescribed grazing. Moreover, state-wide training and demonstrations in methods of reducing fine fuels using grazing is necessary to implement this practice at scale. Educational efforts should include recommendations for evaluating and mitigating site-specific rangeland resource management and grazing treatment impacts on wildlife habitats, water quality, and fuel bed characteristics, and could include trainings on developing carbon farm plans for grazing lands to increase soil health and forage production while assisting the state with meeting its climate goals on natural and working lands.

GOAL 3: Collaborate with advised and related agencies, Native American tribes, and other administrative bodies to prioritize rangeland management research priorities and utilize networks to monitor and promote planning to address concerns.

Purpose: Rangelands support a diverse suite of ecosystem services and serve a diverse citizenry. To encourage a diverse set of voices are included in consideration of rangeland management in California, the RMAC will broaden connections and interactions with organizations involved in large-scale management of rangelands in California that have not historically or recently been part of its formal stakeholders. Circulate and elevate practical needs for rangeland management research from land managers and agency staff to research organizations in California with the technical skill and capacity to properly investigate them. Monitor regulatory initiatives on surface water pollution, ground water management, soil health, and soil carbon sequestration. Remain in position to provide constructive feedback to agencies on the scientific merit and practicality of regulatory efforts meant to protect water quality and sustain its availability and affordability.

Table 4 (Panel 1 of 5). 2025 Annual Goals and Objectives to meet RMAC Priorities.

Goals, Objectives, Leads & Partners, and Estimated Completion Dates				Objective Relationship to RMAC Priorities			
OBJECTIVE	Lead RMAC Member(s) & Partners	Status	Estimated Completion	I - Advisement	II - Education	III - CDFA	IV - Assessment
GOAL 1. Develop and promote appropriate rangeland resource management guidance to support fuels management and other ecosystem services.							
1a. Finalize and disseminate DGS-approved standard template(s)/form(s) with accompanying guidance document for constructing grazing agreements and grazing management plans for use by state agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bart Cremers, Lance Criley, Cole Bush, Rich Ross • SLGLLM • <i>Dr. Larry Ford, Jeanette Griffin</i> • DGS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comments incorporated on drafts • Address comments and finalize drafts • Presentation to the RMAC and the Board early 2025 	06/2025 To be published online by June 2025	X			X
1b. Establish appropriate guidance for grazing on California rangelands, with an emphasis on state-managed lands, via informational publications, publications, and technical guidance for public and agency use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cole Bush, Dr. Paul Starrs, Dr. Stephanie Larson, Bart Cremers • <i>CWGA TG, Task Force, Prescribed Herbivory Working Group, CAL FIRE</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015 Prescribed Herbivory white paper update in progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWGA TG to consider stakeholder input • Draft presentation to RMAC early 2025 • Review CAL FIRE prescribed herbivory draft for Fuels Reduction Guide • Prescribed Herbivory Technical Guidance draft planned for mid- to late 2025 • 1st SB 675 Deliverables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First draft guidance for Task Force's Strategic Action Plan • Local and regional grazing guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing Moving to Board June 2025 • When received • initiated discussion May 2025 • Done 06/2025 • In Process 12/2025 	X			X

Table 4. Continued next page.

Table 4 (Panel 2 of 5). 2025 Annual Goals and Objectives to meet RMAC Priorities, continued from previous page.

Goals, Objectives, Leads & Partners, and Estimated Completion Dates				Objective Relationship to RMAC Priorities			
OBJECTIVE	Lead RMAC Member(s) & Partners	Status	Estimated Completion	I - Advisement	II - Education	III - CDFA	IV - Assessment
GOAL 2. Support outreach, education, and workforce development to build rangeland management expertise in the State.							
2a. RMAC action team to develop relationships with the CLFA and the CRM Panel, and establish, develop, and implement joint CRM-RPF annual fuels management training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Marc Horney, Jeremy Walker, Lance Criley, Joel Kramer • <i>Dr. Susan Marshall, YG Gentry</i> • <i>CLFA, CFA, RCDs, PBAs, CAL FIRE, local fire departments, Cal-Pac SRM CRM Panel, PFEC</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversations ongoing with CLFA, CFA, and other partners to develop oak woodland training in spring 2025 • Established action team members late 2024 	05/2025 Start discussions again in fall 2025		X	X	
2b. Coordinate CRM and RPF requirements and exam contents where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Marc Horney • <i>Dr. Susan Marshall, Dr. Jamie Bartolome, Denise Defreese</i> • <i>Cal-Pac SRM CRM Panel, OPFR, PFEC</i> 	Conversations ongoing with CRM Panel members and Board.	12/2025 CRM Panel is meeting next week		X		
2c. Promote existing efforts to develop a statewide training program for potential CRMs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Marc Horney • <i>Dr. Susan Marshall</i> • <i>OPFR, Cal-Pac SRM CRM Panel, PFEC</i> 	California Polytechnic State University, Humboldt is organizing a course to provide statewide training for CRMs; hope to announce by spring 2025.	12/2025 Efforts ongoing		X		

Table 4. Continued next page.

Table 4 (Panel 3 of 5). 2025 Annual Goals and Objectives to meet RMAC Priorities, continued from previous page.

Goals, Objectives, Leads & Partners, and Estimated Completion Dates				Objective Relationship to RMAC Priorities			
OBJECTIVE	Lead RMAC Member(s) & Partners	Status	Estimated Completion	I - Advisement	II - Education	III - CDFA	IV - Assessment
2d. Meet with CRM Panel and Cal-Pac SRM leadership to discuss methods of promoting CRM utilization and/or further development of the program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Marc Horney, Dr. Stephanie Larson • <i>Dr. Susan Marshall</i> • <i>Cal-Pac SRM CRM Panel</i> 	The Chair will agendize a conversation between the RMAC and the CRM Panel with the Cal Pac SRM membership at the spring 2025 meeting on this topic.	12/2025 Efforts ongoing		X		
2e. Invite experts to discuss integrated fuels treatments including prescribed herbivory at a public RMAC meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lenya Quinn-Davidson</i> • <i>CAL FIRE, UCCE/UCANR, PBAs, local fire departments</i> 	Foundational presentation on prescribed burning Burn Boss Program (CARx) in late 2024; expand on this in 2025.	12/2025 Presentations on integrated fuels treatments		X		
2f. Conduct and promote a collaborative annual educational workshop series on a topic of current significance in California rangelands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joel Kramer, Dr. Marc Horney, Dr. Stephanie Larson, Bart Cremers • <i>UCCE/UC ANR, NRCS, CAL FIRE, BLM, CDFW</i> 	Survey developed to solicit input on stakeholder and agency needs and inform development of the 2025 educational series.	12/2025 Combined with SB 675 Implementation efforts		X		

Table 4. Continued next page.

Table 4 (Panel 4 of 5). 2025 Annual Goals and Objectives to meet RMAC Priorities, continued from previous page.

Goals, Objectives, Leads & Partners, and Estimated Completion Dates				Objective Relationship to RMAC Priorities			
OBJECTIVE	Lead RMAC Member(s) & Partners	Status	Estimated Completion	I - Advisement	II - Education	III - CDFA	IV - Assessment
GOAL 3. Collaborate with advised and related agencies, Native American tribes, and other administrative bodies to prioritize rangeland management research priorities and utilize networks to monitor and promote planning to address concerns.							
3a. Regularly solicit requests rangeland management topics and extend invitations for periodic public reports on activities and issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMAC members • <i>Advised agencies (CDFA, CalEPA, CNRA, Board)</i> 	Ongoing	Ongoing ~covered by previous objective update	X			X
3b. Facilitate an inventory of existing land management plans and a system for periodic reporting of range management activities to meet progress reporting requirements of state programs, including the Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets (AB 1757 ⁴).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Stephanie Larson, Dr. Marc Horney • <i>Natural and Working Lands Science Team, Advised agencies (CDFA, CalEPA, CNRA, Board)</i> 	Board staff shared current repository with Chair and Vice-Chair; RMAC members to provide additional data to compile.	12/2025 ongoing		X		X

Table 4. Continued next page.

⁴ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1757

Table 4 (Panel 5 of 5). 2025 Annual Goals and Objectives to meet RMAC Priorities, *continued from previous page.*

Goals, Objectives, Leads & Partners, and Estimated Completion Dates				Objective Relationship to RMAC Priorities			
OBJECTIVE	Lead RMAC Member(s) & Partners	Status	Estimated Completion	I - Advisement	II - Education	III - CDFA	IV - Assessment
GOAL 3. Collaborate with advised and related agencies, Native American tribes, and other administrative bodies to prioritize rangeland management research priorities and utilize networks to monitor and promote planning to address concerns.							
3c. Initiate proof-of-concept projects or small-scale collaborative investigations of grazing impacts, including those related to CDFA mandates FAC § 7271 and 7273.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joel Kramer, Lance Criley, Jeremy Walker, Cole Bush, Dr. Stephanie Larson, Dr. Marc Horney RCDs, UCCE/UCANR Hopland Research & Extension Center 	Ongoing efforts to develop demonstration projects and platform to share project outcomes (e.g., written updates and in-person workshops and field tours).	Ongoing SB 675 checks the box for some of this; BCP proposed for funding a demonstration site		X	X	X

Key: BLM = Bureau of Land Management; Board = Board of Forestry & Fire Protection; CalEPA = CA Environmental Protection Agency; CAL FIRE = Department of Forestry & Fire Protection; Cal-Pac SRM = CA Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management; CDFW = CA Department of Fish & Wildlife; CFA = California Forestry Association; CLFA = CA Licensed Foresters Association; CNRA = CA Natural Resources Agency; CDFA = CA Department of Food & Agriculture; CRM = Certified Rangeland Manager; CWGA TGC = CA Wool Growers Association - Targeted Grazing Committee; DGS = CA Department of General Services; FAC = Food and Agriculture Code; NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service; PBA = Prescribed Burn Association; PFEC = Professional Foresters Examining Committee; RCD = Resource Conservation District; RMAC = Rangeland Management Advisory Committee; RPF = Registered Professional Forester; SLGLLM = State Lands Grazing License & Land Management, a subcommittee of the RMAC; Task Force = Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force; UCCE/UCANR = UCCE = University of CA Cooperative Extension/University of CA Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.