Post-Workshop Survey Results

Respondents:

- 14 Rangeland professionals
- 12 Non-rangeland professionals

Results:

Question 1: What did you think of the content of the workshop?

- Poor – 1
- Fair – 1
- Average – 1
- Good – 15
- Excellent – 5

Question 2: Did the presenters adequately address topics that you were interested in?

- No – 0
- Mostly – 13
- Yes – 12

Question 3: If we missed or inadequately handled any topics, could you tell us about them?

- "I would have liked to hear more discussion of how to to assess and use general or targeted grazing to produce the best layout the fuel reduction zones on a ranch of public conservation property, as well as other grazing objectives related to fire management; and how grazing deeper inside the WUI (vacant lots, back yards, abandoned ranches before conversion to housing) could help reduce fire spread in urban wildfires."
- "Would have been interested to spend more time thinking/brainstorming about how agencies and private landowners were actually going to execute and get targeted grazing on the ground. Nuts and bolts case studies would have been useful, with before/after photos and costs, to give a sense of what's possible."
- "The conversation got sidetracked a few times by conversations not of wide applicability"
- "I was disappointed in the amount of political posturing that was mingled into the science"
- "Efficacy aspects would have been good, including for the maintenance of native habitats rather than strictly for fuel reduction."
- "creative options that emphasize livestock utilization as a substantial tool."
- "The webinar remote visitor audio was consistently poor, and therefore the speakers' presentations were seriously compromised --basically unintelligible. The sound was "muddled" by the acoustics of the environment and the audio technology, which was used to record the speakers' presentations. I may try to

grab the recorded audio and filter it in such a way as to "sharpen" it to the point where it becomes clearly intelligible. If I'm successful with that, I'll comment on the substantive content of the presentations."

Question 4: Did you make useful connections with people and resources at the workshop?

- No - 4
- A few - 4
- Yes - 13
- N/A – 1
- "I wished there was some mingling time included."

Question 5: Please name the main ideas or impressions that have most stuck with you about the topic in the 30 days since the workshop.

- "1. Van Butsic describing the usefulness of grazing as an alternative to prescribed burning; 2. Lynn Huntsinger describing briefly the conversion of native grasslands to non-native (a topic needing detailed analysis...) 3. Several speakers describing the value of integrating grazing with prescribed burning"
- "Thinking more about targeted grazing certification. Concerned about scale and how we're ever going to get this applied to enough acres to make it work."
- "The logistics of running goats around seems labor intensive, but the results appeared effective. How can these programs be expanded to support maintenance of fuel breaks? Should goat husbandry be taught to inmate crew personnel? or FFA? Junior college Ag program? Could that be how more individuals become interested in this as a business? Get a Cooperative with Whole Foods? Are there USDA barriers for getting goat products into the food chain?"
- "Targeted grazing as a business."
- "Many different types of municipalities are utilizing grazing."
- "grazing with ruminants"
- "The fact that this topic is gaining attention in CA and it was good to see successful examples of what is being done in Marin County. And it was important to see that it is getting attention amongst many groups. I also saw that this information NEEDS to be spread to every landowner that owns a plot of land. Following the workshop I immediately made plans to share the topics with my community and spread awareness. It would be good to see more success stories of prescribed grazing in the dense shrub transition zone from foothill to mountain habitat."
- "The proper role of animals on the landscape to reduce fire hazards. Still struggling with how they fit into non-grass dominated vegetation types."
- "That grazing for fire risk reduction is something that has multiple benefits and needs to be more supported by local government to be attractive for ranchers.

- “Unfortunately, as a newcomer to the topics of grazing and fire, the impression I left with was that this was a defense of grazing as a management tool and a defense of the cattle industry as a whole. I was hoping for more objective discussions, but many of the Q/A was primarily political pontification as far as I could tell. The actual information presented was good, but I had to filter the rhetoric.”
- ”There are more ways to look at the benefits of grazing.”
- “The woman from Cal was by far the most useful speaker; was frustrated by the lack of adherence to the agenda, as I was listening-in remotely between other meetings and missing some sections I would really have liked to been available for.”
- “Fire can and should be employed more actively on the landscape, general livestock grazing has marginal value for fuels management, but prescribed/targeted grazing can be substantially more influential.”
- “the types and amounts of wildfire fuel loads by Dave Sapis. tools for veg management. The effects of grazing in multi use landscapes.”
- “There is a lot of interest in targeted grazing, but we still lack an effective statewide system to connect resources to interested parties”
- “Function and existance of the RMAC, issues and challenges of Rx grazing”
- “Lynn's algae in coral analogy The impact of predators on the ability to control fire fuels with grazing animals”

Question 6: Would you be interested in participating in more workshops like this?

- Yes – 25
- No – 1
- “targeted grazing, noxious weed management”
- “efficacy of grazing relative to native vegetation management”
- “More scientific (real world) studies of how the tools can be best employed”
- “Many grasslands are parts of "Park"-managing agencies, whose primary objective is the preservation and improvement of native biota (incl. plant species). Learning more about whether these agencies are managing their grasslands for that objective, why, how, or why not, is my primary interest.”
- “Implementation of Grazing Programs for Counties and Municipalities”

Question 7: What was the quality of the webinar experience?

- Poor – 2
- Fair – 0
- Average – 0
- Good – 4
- Excellent – 9

Question 8: Would you be interested in participating in an ongoing public working group formed to maintain momentum on the topic and increase information and support resources available to communities and landowners?

- Yes – 18
- No – 6

Question 9: Was there anything about the workshop format, venue, or accommodations that you think could be improved upon for future events of this kind?

- "More time was needed for discussion in between presentations/topic areas. Delaying discussion to the end of the workshop deters participation. Workshop was too long as most attendees left before the end of the workshop."
- "A venue with tables and perhaps in a more informal setting could cultivate more discussions between presenters and the audience as well as creating a comfortable setting to take notes. A less formal setting could also allow audience members to mingle and network better."
- "It would be nice to have somewhere where this is a hall where different booths are set up outside of the auditorium and different grazers can be invited to set up and tell about how they started, what their business model is, and what kind of contracts/ type of grazing they do. This could help landowners to find grazers and young aspiring grazers to gain connections and ideas."
- "More time to interact amongst the participants"
- "Audio was not great. Small group break out session would potentially add value."

Question 10: Are there any major issues related to rangeland health and management in California that you would like to see RMAC bring more attention and expertise to?

- Yes – 8
- No – 14
- "Many of the technical and practical topics addressed in CCRC workshops would merit follow-up at RMAC workshops"
- "Education and public outreach for folks in our large state who do not know or understand what grazing and range management is."
- "A focused workshop on grazing in the WUI for fire hazard reduction. Include various options for bundling multiple parcels/landowners in areas where ownership is highly fragmented."
- "Better understand how Rx grazing alters fire behavior"
- "Some aggressive and specific pests (Medusahead, Barbed goatgrass) are becoming substantial threats to rangeland productivity and ecological diversity. More attention to natural controls with fire or grazing."

- “reentry into fire areas with livestock needs to be addressed (I know it was sort of in a secondary way) this is one of the most important tools we have to control understory from the start.”