

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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**Range Management Advisory Committee Meeting (RMAC)**
MEETING RECORD**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2025, 12:00 PM**Primary Location:** California Natural Resources Agency Headquarters, 715 P Street, Sacramento, 95814, 2nd floor, Conference Room 310**Secondary Locations:**

- Cal Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo – Alan A. Erhart Agriculture Building, Building 10, Room 101, 1 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo 93407
- UC Cooperative Extension Sonoma County – 133 Aviation Boulevard, Suite 109, Santa Rosa, 95403
- Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego – 11769 Waterhill Road, Lakeside, CA 92040
- Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council – 201 Bryant St, Ojai, CA 93023

The meeting recording may be retained for a limited amount of time, and during that time, may be observed by completing registration at the following weblink. Access to the recording is not guaranteed at any given time.

Webinar Recording Access Links:**Part 1:** <https://calfire.box.com/s/bl20mncsdbqubynddbn2xyv14vsvy1f48>**Part 2:** <https://calfire.box.com/s/rn81i29c81vp5ejlfws3y12btbvp3gn3>

See the [March 26, 2025 RMAC Agenda](#) for further details.

ROLL CALL**RMAC Members Present (9)**

- Chair, Dr. Marc Horney – in person at Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo
- Vice-Chair, Dr. Stephanie Larson – in person at UCCE Sonoma County
- Rich Ross – in person at CNRA Headquarters
- Noah Lopez – in person at CNRA Headquarters
- Dr. Paul Starrs – in person at UCCE Sonoma County
- Lance Criley – in person at Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego
- Cole Bush – in person Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council
- Joel Kramer – in person at Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego

A quorum was present with 8 voting members at noticed locations.

RMAC Members Absent (3)

- Bart Cremers

- Mark Gutierrez
- Katie Delbar

Board Staff (2)

- Dr. Kristina Wolf, Environmental Scientist – in person at CNRA Headquarters
- Alexandra Vest – virtual

Department Staff (2)

- Phoebe Elliott, Student Assistant – in person at CNRA Headquarters
- Steve Fountain, Technical Support – in person at CNRA Headquarters

Public Attendees (6)

Jeanette Griffin, Deb Loomis, Trevor Fox, Chelsea Carey, Alan Bower, Trevor Fox

AGENDA ITEMS and MEETING MINUTES:

Items are numbered by their corresponding number on the agenda and documented below in order of their introduction during the meeting.

Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 00:00:00

1. Call to Order, Webinar Meeting Format, and Roll Call – Dr. Kristina Wolf, *Board Staff* (5 min)

Dr. Wolf called the meeting to order, called the role, and reviewed the webinar format.

Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 00:11:01

2. Staff/Chairman's report – Chair Dr. Marc Horney, *Cal Poly San Luis Obispo* (5 min)

- RMAC 2024 Annual Report and Workplan approved by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board): [2. 2024 RMAC Annual Report and Workplan FINAL](#)
- Dr. Wolf represented the poster at the Russell Rustici Symposium in February about SB 675: [2. 2025 Rustici Symposium RMAC SB675](#)
- Dr. Wolf has not yet received the list of organizations from Dr. Larson and Dr. Horney for dissemination; they aim to complete this by the end of the week.
- Dr. Wolf and Member Bush will present on prescribed grazing at Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee's meeting on April 15th meeting in Sacramento.
- Dr. Larson presented about SB 675 and prescribed herbivory at the spring California Rangeland Conservation Coalition symposium: [2. S. Larson Target Grazing and Wildfires - SB 675](#)

Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 00:13:32

3. Approval of meeting minutes – Dr. Wolf, *Board Staff* (5 min)

No meeting minutes to approve at this time.

Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 00:14:30

4. Rancher Technical Assistance Program – Member Noah Lopez (15 min)

Noah Lopez shared that the Rancher Technical Assistance Program (RTAP), active for over 4 years, provides back-office support and a help line for ranchers; it is funded through the California Cattle Council and operated via his firm's contract with the California Cattlemen's Foundation (CCF). Work on liability issues such as if cattle get loose on a highway. This is not legal advice. Provide resources such as fact sheets and guidebooks for cattle production related issues. Trying

to get grazing back on state lands working with cooperative extension. Member Criley pointed out that in San Diego, there is currently an ongoing study on grazing and its impact on fuel management and habitat.

Approximate Time Stamp 00:25:26

5. Grazing for Resilience on and around Department of Defense Military Installations and Bases – Deb Loomis, *Hinterland Institute* (10 min)

- Member Bush introduced Deb Loomis, the former Climate Advisor to the Secretary of the Navy. Ms. Loomis is now the founder of the Hinterland Institute. She shared her background, including her retirement from the Navy and her work in launching a regenerative grazing company in Kansas. The company's objective was to transition 3,700 acres of land from soy and corn production to regenerative agricultural practices.
- Ms. Loomis discussed her role as a climate advisor, where she focused on nature-based solutions and worked on projects at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. She highlighted the importance of capturing water in the soil in dry regions like Yuma, as water runoff can damage roadways and equipment, while excessive heat and dust can negatively impact military training. Her approach emphasized grazing for resilience. In addition, Member Bush introduced Eric Ozaja, who is currently on active duty and will be speaking about his involvement in related initiatives.
- Ms. Loomis also noted the development of the Hinterland Institute, an organization formed by former veterans to implement grazing practices on and around Department of Defense land. One of the institute's main goals is to train veterans in regenerative agriculture, in partnership with Understanding Ag. They are currently with Soil Health Academy and approved to do a project called Skill Bridge which allows the last 3-6 months for veterans to intern with a company while still getting the military salary
- **Questions:**
 - Member Starrs: Are you currently in contact with the Veteran's Affairs (VA)? Eric: every base has a transition assistant program.
 - Larry Ford: Cautions the use of the word regenerative. Sometimes filled with mythology. Conventional grazing often is just as good as producing results as regenerative approach. Encourage to always have scientific skepticism.

Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 00:42:50

6. Planning for Implementation of SB 675 (2023) Prescribed grazing: local assistance grant program: Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force – RMAC Members Cole Bush, Cremers, and Dr. Larson, and Board Staff Dr. Wolf (20 min)

- Stephanie and Cole gave an update from the Task Force's Working Group, which includes Members Bush and Cremers and connects directly to RMAC. The group has expanded the draft of SB 675 since RMAC last reviewed it, with further revisions expected. Final content decisions will be made by the Task Force, depending on available space in the final document.
- A statewide Prescribed Grazing Guidance document is being developed, with regional nuances and case studies. The four regions, established by the Wildfire Task Force will each contribute unique implementation plans.
- **Next steps include:**

- Finalizing a listserv (distributed to RMAC members; additional names welcome).
- Sending out invitations for the 3/28 statewide partners kickoff meeting.
- Hosting the statewide kickoff meeting on 4/28.
- 2-hour virtual format
- 4 regional meetings following kick off meeting. Launching Regional Action Teams to plan educational workshops and gather stakeholder input.
- Leads for the 4 regions:
 - North-Coast-Inland Region – Vice-Chair Larson
 - Sierra-Cascade-Inyo Region – Member Lopez and Member Guitierrez co-lead
 - Coastal-Inland Region – not finalized, possibly Chair Dr. Horney
 - Southern California Region – Member Cole as co-lead contact person
- Developing the guidance document with regional components, identifying data gaps and research needs.
- Member Bush is willing to help find leads and collaborators in regions.

Materials

- [6. Local and Regional Grazing Plans Outline](#)
- [6. SB 675 Expanding Rx Herb 2025-1-30](#)
- [6. Regions - California Wildfire & Forest Resilience](#)

Approximate Time Stamp 01:17:01

7. Updates and Next Steps: Prescribed Herbivory Deliverables – Member Bush, *Shepherdess Land & Livestock* (5 min)

- Member Bush is ready to review the Prescribed Herbivory paper for review. New Member Gutierrez broke down the creation of the document and revisions the paper underwent. The cost section underwent the most revision. Behavior of animals, best management practices, and logistics of deploying grazing operations. Recommendation to use weed free hay was removed since it would increase cost and is deemed unnecessary. Various edits of the white paper were covered. Revisions can include sensitive species and site assessments. Change license to lease. Footnote in Certified Range Manager (CRM) where to find a CRM and in what cases they are needed. RMAC provide to comments before May meeting. Vote on it at next RMAC meeting.
- **Comments:** Member Horney would like to review the draft. Sensitive species not included in list.

Materials

- [7a. Prescribed Herbivory White Paper Revised 2025-03-04](#)
- [7b. Prescribed Herbivory White Paper – CWGA TG Committee Revisions and Comments](#)
- [7c. Prescribed Herbivory White Paper Presentation](#)

Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 01:46:01

8. Annual Educational Workshop Series Planning 2025 – Dr. Wolf, *Board Staff* (10 min)

- Discussed in item 6, above.

Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 01:57:01

9. Final Draft Presentation: State Lands Grazing License & Land Management (SLGLLM) sub-Committee Deliverables – Dr. Larry Ford, *Rangeland Conservation Science* and Member Bart Cremers, *Wildlands* (60 min)

- Main changes are the removal of higher fuel management. Embedded grazing agreements and guidance outlines. Literature cited at the top of the document. Appendix A and B of acronyms are now at the end. Explaining different objectives of how cattle operations versus goat and sheep operation when it comes to who pays to graze. Larry stated that he is comfortable with Kristina to make the changes. Member Starrs motions to approve document. Member Criley seconds the motion. Unanimous vote to approve. Next step is to bring it in front of the board for consideration on April 9th.

Materials

- [9a-i. SLGLLM Guidebook Final Revision - TC 2025-03-25](#)
- [9a-i. SLGLLM Guidebook Final Revision - Clean 2025-03-25](#)
- [9a-ii. DGS Sample Grazing License Agreement FINAL](#)
- [9b-i. SLGLLM Guidebook Revised for DGS - TC 2025-03-02](#)
- [9b-i. SLGLLM Guidebook Revised for DGS - Clean](#)
- [9b-ii. SGLLLM Grazing Agreement Revised for DGS - Clean, no TC](#)
- [9b-iii. SLGLLM MAP Revised for DGS - Clean, no TC](#)
- [9c-i. SLGLLM Guidebook Revised for Editor DRAFT - TC](#)
- [9c-i. SLGLLM Guidebook Revised for Editor DRAFT - Clean](#)
- [9c-ii. SGLLLM Grazing Agreement Revised for Editor DRAFT - TC](#)
- [9c-ii. SGLLLM Grazing Agreement Revised for Editor DRAFT - Clean](#)
- [9c-iii. SLGLLM MAP Revised for Editor DRAFT - TC](#)
- [9c-iii. SLGLLM MAP Revised for Editor DRAFT - Clean](#)
- [9d-i. SLGLLM Guidebook Revised for Public Comment DRAFT - TC](#)
- [9d-i. SLGLLM Guidebook Revised for Public Comment DRAFT - Clean](#)
- [9d-ii. SGLLLM Grazing Agreement Revised for Public Comment DRAFT - TC](#)
- [9d-ii. SGLLLM Grazing Agreement Revised for Public Comment DRAFT - Clean](#)
- [9d-iii. SLGLLM MAP Revised for Public Comment DRAFT - TC](#)
- [9d-iii. SLGLLM MAP Revised for Public Comment DRAFT - Clean](#)

Approximate Time Stamp 02:43:01

10. Oak Woodland Vegetation Management Training Planning 2025 – RMAC Members Jeremy Walker and Lance Criley, and Board Staff Dr. Wolf (10 min)

- The planning team decided to proceed without the CA Licensed Foresters Association (CLFA) and California Forestry Association (CFA) as primary partners after multiple unsuccessful outreach attempts. Kristina, Lance Criley, and Jeremy Walker had volunteered to move planning forward, with Joel Kramer later joining the team. However, no planning meetings have taken place due to scheduling conflicts and limited availability. Despite initial interest from Audubon (Matt Allshouse), East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD), and Alameda/Contra Costa RCDs, there has been little recent traction. Audubon offered Bobcat Ranch as a potential location and proposed May for the event but has not responded to

follow-up communication. Demand for this type of training remains high, especially among land managers seeking practical education on grazing and fuels management.

- The group discussed the need to finalize a planning team, identify a confirmed location, and determine the event format and timing. Potential locations include Bobcat Ranch and an EBRPD-sponsored site. Speaker suggestions included Audubon (Pelayo Alvarez), EBRPD's Steve Keller, Yana Valachovic, Lenya Quinn-Davidson, UCCE Forest Advisors, Marshall Turbeville, Marc Horney, and Tracy Schohr, among others. The group considered whether the training should be a one- or two-day event, possibly combining a webinar and in-person workshop, and whether it could offer continuing education (CE) credits.

Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 02:47:41

11. 2025 Strategic Plan Update – Board Staff Dr. Wolf (20 min)

- Revisions to the RMAC Strategic Plan were primarily grammatical and formatting in nature. A new section outlining RMAC Values was added: Sustainable Solutions, Public Transparency, and Flexible Adaptive Management. No changes were proposed to the overarching priorities; however, clarifications were made to distinguish between overarching priorities and the annual priorities, goals, and objectives. Additional edits clarified seat types, who is eligible to nominate and be nominated, and a formally defined quorum requirement.
- Member Kramer motioned and member Larson seconded this motion. Changes passed unanimously. This will be forwarded to the Board for review.

Materials

- [11a. RMAC 2020 Strategic Plan](#)
- [11b-i. 2025 RMAC Strategic Plan V1 - TC](#)
- [11b-ii. 2025 RMAC Strategic Plan V1 - Clean](#)

Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 02:53:01

12. Expiring Member Terms and New Member Nomination(s): Discussion and recommendations for appointment(s) to the RMAC – Dr. Wolf, Board Staff (5 min)

Member Ross suggested outreach to timber industry stakeholders to increase representation. Potential contacts include SPI, Collins, HRC, MRC, Hamey Woods, Green Diamond, and CAL FIRE.

Approximate Time Stamp, Part 2 – 00:03:01

13. Updates from Partner Organizations & Public Forum

Legislative Updates

- Updates from Partner Organizations
 - CAL FIRE's Fire and Resources Assessment Program (FRAP)
 - Dr. Wolf reported that FRAP is currently wrapping up their draft report on rangelands. The RMAC will likely receive the draft shortly for review. Input from Dr. Wolf was requested by the end of next week.
 - Valley and Blue Oak Working Group
 - Dr. Wolf will provide information on potential species conservation planning efforts. Planning a Conservation Planning Workshop is tentatively scheduled for September 10–12, 2025 at the UC Davis Arboretum.
 - California Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)

- Reported updates related to CDFA-funded activities:
 - Farm conservation planning underway; most recent plan includes a carbon farm/ranch plan sample from San Diego County.
 - San Mateo RCD: Completed a regenerative ranching series this past year.
 - Goldridge RCD: In latter stages of implementing the LandSmart Grazing Program, which includes rebates for targeted grazing. Yolo RCD: Recently closed Burn Box Applications.
 - Greater San Diego RCD: Hosting an event on April 24 to inform landowners about the value of grazing.
 - Solano RCD: Actively seeking targeted graziers for the Quail Canyon area this week.
- California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
 - Weed Management Area (WMA) Program:
 - Application phase completed, now in technical and administrative review. Aiming to distribute \$40,000 to qualifying counties by July. WMA Oversight Committee is meeting soon to determine future structure. RMAC is expected to have a representative at these meetings. First meeting will be internal; subsequent meetings will be open to broader participation. Meeting information is posted on the CDFA website, and additional reminders will be sent.

Approximate Time Stamp, Part 2 – 03:00:01

14. Announcements, next meeting date, agenda items

May 19th 9:30 am–12:30 pm

15. Adjourn