

California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC)
State Grazing Licenses and Land Management Sub-Committee
Land/Grazing Management Plan Action Team

Comprehensive Land/Grazing Management Plan Template

Action Team:

Lance Criley, CRM
Lawrence Ford, CRM
Jeanette Griffin

Updated: 04/05/2022

Action Team Introduction

1. The full comprehensive Land/Grazing Management Plan template is outlined below. We've identified with asterisks (*) in the comprehensive plan which sections are critical to address in any condensed plan.
2. Examples of Land/Grazing Management Plans that follow the structure and content suggested here and representing the range of more and less complexity should be posted by RMAC in a separate website and updated periodically for reference by relevant planners.
3. Livestock grazing has many interacting effects on rangeland resources that should not be excluded or separated out of a plan that is intended to conserve ecosystems, not just targeted species or agricultural opportunity.
4. The plan should include both real and effective conservation, but also be feasible and sustainable for grazing operators and their broader community that supports each grazing lessee.
5. Although each property has usually had some degree of resource surveying, pre-acquisition evaluation, and/or broader resource management planning, the parts about evaluating grazing effects on special resources are often left out. Furthermore, the plan need not reiterate all the previous planning work, but should evaluate grazing effects on each special resource and describe desired effects.
6. Many grazing plans do not adequately present or evaluate realistic goals, objectives and performance standards to grazing guidance and to monitor effects. Grazing plans should adequately provide monitoring and adaptation plans, with methods and adaptation triggers and alternatives defined.
7. The desired grazing should *not* be described to fit a model of a specialized grazing system or philosophy, but should describe the basic guidelines for effectively achieving the stated objectives.
8. Grazing is only one tool, and other tools for achieving the same goals should be integrated.

Outline of Comprehensive Land/Grazing Management Plan (updated 3/29/22)

- *1.0 Introduction
 - *1.1 How this plan relates to existing applicable management plans, easements, law/codes/regulations
 - *1.2 Purposes and Uses of this Plan

- *2.0 Site Description (referring to other planning documents, not duplicating; particular impacts of grazing will be discussed in Section 4)
 - *2.1 Summary of Existing Planning
 - *2.1.a Land Management Plan / PEIR / Other CEQA or Environmental Review Documents
 - *2.1.b Biological Opinions
 - *2.1.c Easements
 - *2.2 Vegetation and Pest Plants
 - *2.3 Wildlife/Habitats
 - 2.4 Aquatic and Hydrologic Resources
 - 2.5 Soils and Topography—Productivity, Erosion, Compaction, Hazards
 - 2.6 Fire Hazards and Risks
 - 2.7 Shrub Encroachment
 - *2.8 Context—type of grasslands, grazable areas, structures, current grazing

- *3.0 Impacts of Grazing on Resources of Concern
 - *3.1 Summary of Special Considerations for Grazing Management--Special Species, Natural Communities, Habitats, Soils, Fire Fuels, and Other Resources Affected by Grazing
 - *3.2 Summary of Expected Grazing Effects on Special Resources and Desired Management Outcomes
 - 3.3 Potential Conflicts with Wildlife, Recreation, or Neighbors
 - 3.4 Expected Effects of Climate Change
 - 3.5 Priorities for Maintenance and Potential Improvement of Carbon Sequestration

- *4.0 Grazing Management Goals, Objectives, and Performance Standards
 - *4.1 Identify Goals, Objectives, and Performance Standards to Meet Conservation and Sustainability Policies of Landowner Agency

- *5.0 Grazing Program

- *5.1 Glossary of Terms
- *5.2 Options, Potential Uses, and Recommended Livestock Species Appropriate for Objectives
- *5.3 Grazing Capacity and Recommended Initial Stocking Rates
- *5.4 Special Management Areas (clusters of special resources affected by grazing), Targeted and Deferred Grazing
- 5.5 Conflict Mitigation strategies
- 5.6 Fire Hazards and Risks Mitigation Strategies
- *5.7 Grazing Period
- *5.8 Supplemental Feeding, Feeding Areas
- *5.9 Animal Distribution
- *5.10 Restrictions
- *5.11 Livestock Lease/License Options and Recommendations
- *5.12 Grazing Fee Credit Options and Other Incentives for Stewardship Cooperation
- *5.13 Infrastructure
 - *5.13.b Existing Infrastructure
 - *5.13.b Required Improvements
 - *5.13.c Maintenance and Unexpected Repairs
 - *5.13.d Estimated Costs and Responsibilities
- 5.14 Extreme Weather (drought, flood, debris flows, infrastructure damage) Preparations, Special Monitoring, and Response Plan

- *6.0 Monitoring, Reporting, and Plan Adaptation
 - *6.1 Monitoring and Reporting (required methods and variables)
 - *6.2 Plan and Practice Adaptation
 - *6.3 Roles and Responsibilities of Grazing Program Managers and Grazing Lessees/Licensees

- *7.0 Summary of Requirements and Recommendations

- *8.0 References

Suggestions/Comments:

From the License Action Team: The following were suggested for inclusion in the License and might be better suited for the Grazing Management Plan:

1. Purpose of the license
 - a. Describe intended benefits and expectations of grazing and associated activities to the landowner and grazed land; refer to the linked Grazing Management Plan
 - b. Develop a collaboration for land stewardship between landowner and grazing licensee

2. Monitoring and adjustments to grazing strategy
 - a. Clarify how periodic monitoring will be conducted (by landowner and licensee), and how licensee will be expected to respond to updates to the linked GMP; who will any resulting added costs to licensee be covered
Clarify timing and expectations for modifications to grazing strategy will be required during extreme weather and emergencies