

RMAC ANNUAL PRIORITIES

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., CDFA, 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.

"SLGLLM" = RMAC subcommittee on State Lands Grazing License and Land Management

- **OBJECTIVE: Promote appropriate grazing for fuels management and multiple ecosystem services.**

- **Purpose:** To make prescribed grazing a practical option for state land management agencies where it is appropriate and suitable for accomplishing ecological, environmental, and cultural objectives.

Action Items:

1. (**Lead: SLGLLM**) Develop standard template/form(s) with a guidance document for constructing grazing license agreements for use by state agencies. (**Completion: 11/22**)
 - a. Template/form(s) must meet requirements of Dept. Fish & Wildlife, State Parks, State Forests;
 - b. be approved for this use by General Services,
 - c. and follow standards of good practice recommended by UCCE and CRMs.
2. (**Lead: SLGLLM**) Develop or approve informational publications which agencies can use for
 - a. (1) conducting site inventories and assessments specific to the ecological site(s) on the management unit and their management objectives,
 - b. (2) developing adaptive management plans detailing the general use and specific objectives for the management unit, and
 - c. (3) producing detailed grazing plans that will form the basis for grazing licenses. These will be developed from general management unit plans which include [1] the purpose(s) for grazing, [2] measurable outcomes to be managed for from the grazing treatments, [3] infrastructure required for the grazing treatment, [4] description of the grazing practices to be used, and [5] identification of any resources requiring protection from damage by the grazing practices.

(**Completion: 3/23**)

- **OBJECTIVE: Increase collaboration and joint educational opportunities for RPFs and CRMs**

Commented [A1]: Seems consistent with two priority nature-based solutions from the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy:

- 1.(From Shrublands and Chaparral section): "Apply managed grazing with goats when appropriate as an effective carbon-neutral fuels management technique to maintain fuel breaks in shrublands and chaparral and in transitional lands between these systems and forests."
- 2.(From Grasslands section): "Increase climate smart and regenerative practices on grasslands, such as range planting, riparian restoration, grazing management regimes that work to support positive ecological outcomes and to increase the amount of deep rooted, quality rangeland grasses for improved vegetation for feed, carbon and water storage, and fire resiliency."

Commented [A2]: Assuming this means regulatory requirements. Any others? State Lands Commission? Coastal Commission?

Commented [A3]: Is there a requirement for any particular outcomes? E.g. any requirements for delivering/enhancing any specific ecosystem service? Perhaps this relates to 1.a. above.

Commented [A4]: Do we/can we incentivize certain practices?

- **Purpose:** 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. There could be opportunities to rectify this, perhaps via combined training programs with both RPFs and CRMs to develop burn plans.

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Action Items:

1. **(Lead: RMAC)** Establish an RMAC subcommittee to develop ongoing, working relationships with the California Licensed Foresters Association and the Certified Rangeland Managers Panel with the purpose of establishing annual fuels management trainings for both CRMs and RPFs to participate in together. **(Completion: 1/23)**
2. **(Lead: RMAC)** Initiate a public demonstration project for a select group of CRMs and RPFs to collaborate on a project where multiple, integrated fuels treatments requiring application of both forest and rangeland ecology practices are required. **(Completion: 9/23)**
3. **(Lead: RMAC)** Work with Professional Foresters Registration to explore points within the registration/licensing processes where CRM and RPF requirements and exam contents could be intentionally coordinated. **(Completion: 5/23)**

- **OBJECTIVE: Increase the number of CRMs, and utilization of them, in California**

- **Purpose:** There are only 86 CRMs left in the State. RMAC needs to promote using that expertise in CAL_FIRE for developing burn plans and conducting prescribed burns.

Action Items:

1. **(Lead: RMAC)** As needed, write letters of support for and promote the efforts of Drs. Susan Marshall and Marc Horney in obtaining funding to develop a statewide training program for potential CRMs. **(Completion: 3/23)**
2. **(Lead: RMAC)** Invite CAL_FIRE representatives to discuss state requirements for planning and conducting prescribed burns as a CAL_FIRE employee or private "burn boss" at Sept or Nov RMAC meeting. **(Completion: 1/23)**
3. **(Lead: RMAC)** Meet with CRM Panel and CalPac-SRM leadership to discuss other methods of promoting CRM utilization and/or further development of the program. **(Completion: 3/23)**

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- **OBJECTIVE: Establish appropriate guidance for grazing following wildfire on California state-owned lands**

- **Purpose:** Ensure that where grazing is being conducted on state lands that policies for grazing livestock management being required by state lands

managers are consistent with the best available science. Cattle producers are reporting being asked to defer grazing for a season so that prescribed burns can be conducted, and then are often not being allowed to graze for several years afterwards. (These reports are presumably chiefly from USFS and BLM lands in the state, but the policy may also be adopted by state lands managers).

Commented [A5]: Seems consistent with priorities and goals from the 2021 CA Climate Adaptation Strategy: Priority: "Make Decisions Based on the Best Available Climate Science"
Goal: "Operationalize climate science into decision making"

And consistent with the near-term priorities for state action identified in the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, specifically: "Invest in science to improve our understanding of implementation pathways here in California and to help scale nature-based climate solutions around the world...Using the best available science to inform an adaptive approach is critical. The state will continue our legacy of leadership in this space, and engage world-class scientists and innovators to support this work in California."

Action Items:

1. (Lead: RMAC) Produce an authoritative peer-reviewed publication explaining what is known about requirements for post-burn "rest" from defoliation and its application to the major grassland ecotypes in California (annual grasslands, blue oak savannas, coastal perennial prairie grasslands, Great Basin sagebrush-steppe). (Completion: 9/23)

Alternatives:

- a. Request such a publication from UC ANR (UCCE)
- b. Request such a publication from faculty/students at CSUs (Cal Poly SLO, Chico, Humboldt) and/or UCs (Berkeley or Davis).
- c. Organize an RMAC subcommittee to produce a white paper.

• **OBJECTIVE: Develop educational opportunities and outreach RE: fuel reduction methods**

- o **Purpose:** Grazing is a fuel reduction method in the State's Wildfire Resilience Action Plan, but few professionals in the state doing planning and leading fuels treatments have experience with it. State-wide training and demonstrations in methods of reducing fine fuels using grazing is necessary to get the practice implemented at scale. This will require coordination with CAL_FIRE.

Commented [A6]: Seems consistent with priorities and goals from the 2021 CA Climate Adaptation Strategy: Priority: "Partner and Collaborate to Leverage Resources"
Goal: "Increase awareness of climate adaptation and resilience issues"

Action Items:

1. (Lead: RMAC) Continue to conduct and promote annual educational workshop series on the use of grazing for fine fuel reduction in collaboration with CAL_FIRE, UC ANR/UCCE, USDA-NRCS, and others. (Completion: 11/22)
2. (Lead: RMAC) Work with UC ANR/UCCE to identify needs for technical and training information and establish a plan for producing them. (Completion: 3/23)

• **OBJECTIVE: Solicit and prioritize current California rangeland management research priorities (RMAC Strategic Objective 4: Monitor for issues in rangeland science and management).**

- o **Purpose:** To 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.

Commented [A7]: This seems consistent with the CA Climate Change Assessments. The 5th Assessment officially kicked off in July 2022 and include contract opportunities for original climate change research. For more info: <https://opr.ca.gov/climate/icarp/climate-assessment/>

Action Items:

1. (Lead: RMAC) Regularly solicit requests or solicitations for investigations of rangeland management topics. (Completion: 11/22)
2. (Lead: RMAC) Where appropriate, initiate proof-of-concept projects or small-scale collaborative investigations utilizing CDFA mandates under the FAC 7271 and 7273. (Completion: 5/23)

- **OBJECTIVE: Increase collaborations with related agencies and bodies**

- **Purpose:** Broaden RMAC's connections and interactions with organizations involved in large-scale management of rangelands in California and that have not been part of its formal stakeholders.

Action Items:

1. (Lead: RMAC) Extend invitations for periodic public reports on their activities and current issues to the UC California Natural Reserve System, the California Rangeland Trust, the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, the Central Coast Grazing Coalition, and others. (Completion: 11/22)
2. (Lead: RMAC) Extend invitations for input on RMAC priorities, synergistic efforts surrounding shared goals, and periodic public reports on their activities and current issues to advised agencies, including the Board, CalEPA, CNRA, and CDFA. (Completion: 10/22)

- **OBJECTIVE: Continue to monitor regulatory initiatives on surface water pollution and ground water management**

- **Purpose:** 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.

Action Items:

1. (Lead: RMAC) Re-establish RMAC's standing water quality subcommittee? (Rename to "Water Quality and Sustainability" or just "Water" subcommittee?)
2. (Lead: RMAC) Establish an annual schedule for representatives from the State and Regional WCBs make presentations or submit reports to RMAC on their activities that may impact grazed lands in the state. (Completion: 1/23)
3. (Lead: RMAC) Establish an annual schedule for staff from DWR to make presentations or submit reports to RMAC on groundwater management plans under development that may impact grazed lands in the state. (Completion: 1/23)

- **OBJECTIVE: Livestock Pass Program**

- **Purpose:** Monitor county-by-county implementations of the LP program and inter-county coordination. It has been reported that in some areas ranchers with

Commented [A8]: Seems consistent with priorities and goals from the 2021 CA Climate Adaptation Strategy: Priority: "Partner and Collaborate to Leverage Resources" Goal: "Collaborate to build climate resilience across sectors and region"

Commented [A9]: What about adding CA Native American tribes here?

Co-management of lands and coordination with tribes was a cross-cutting priority in the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy: "Partner with California Native American tribes to increase co-management and tribal management authority; restore and enhance natural cultural resources, traditional foods, and cultural landscapes; and support tribes' implementing tribal expertise and Traditional Ecological Knowledge and cultural easements."

It was also a priority action identified in the 2021 CA Climate Adaptation Strategy:

- "Identify opportunities for co-management of lands and marine resources and invite and incorporate tribal expertise, traditional ecological knowledge, and cultural practices in the tool set for understanding and responding to climate change."
- "Explore community and tribal stewardship and co-management agreements and policies to meaningfully engage the public in the management of public lands and resources..."
- "Accelerate state, tribal, and local adaptation efforts through sharing of best practices, facilitating collaborative partnerships, and direct investments..."

livestock grazing in multiple counties have been issued passes which are only valid in their county of residence.

Action Items:

1. (Lead: **RMAC**) Agendize topic for Sept/Nov meeting. Invite [CAL FIRE](#), CFBF, or UC ANR staff who have knowledge of the state-wide implementation of the LPP program. (Completion: 11/22)

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