

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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**Range Management Advisory Committee Meeting (RMAC)****Meeting Minutes****Meeting Date:** Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 12:30 PM**Primary Location:** California Natural Resources Agency Headquarters, 715 P Street, Sacramento, 95814, 2nd floor Conference Room 2-221A**Secondary Locations:**

- Star Creek Land Stewards, Inc. – 1232 California Avenue, Los Banos, 93635
- 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
- 705-500 Hagata Road, Susanville, CA 96130
- Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council – 201 Bryant St, Ojai, CA 93023

Meeting recordings may be retained for a limited amount of time, and during that time, may be observed by completing an online registration. Access is not currently available for meeting recordings, and access is not guaranteed at any given time. Please see the [May 21, 2024 Agenda](#) for further details. If access is restored in the future, this document will be updated with the link.

ROLL CALL**RMAC Members Present**

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
Andrée Soares – in person at Star Creek Land Stewards
Bart Cremers – in person at California Natural Resources Agency Headquarters
Joel Kramer – in person at Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego
Cole Bush – in person at Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council

RMAC Members Absent

Paul Starrs
Katie Delbar, ex officio member
Lance Criley
Rich Ross
Taylor Hagata

The Board's mission is to lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of forest and rangelands, and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state.

OPEN SEAT

Board Staff

Dr. Kristina Wolf, Environmental Scientist – virtual
Deniele Casarubbia – virtual

Department Staff

Steve Fountain, Technical Support – in person

Public Attendees

Zach Harris, Jared Mandrell, Brian Shobe, Samantha Tuleya, Ona Weinert, Frank Frievalt

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. The time preceding each Agenda Item is approximate and indicates the amount of time into the meeting that the item was discussed.

Approximate start time on video recording: 00:06:30 (HH:MM:SS)

1. Call to Order, Webinar Meeting Format, and Roll Call – Dr. Wolf, *Board Staff*

Dr. Wolf reviewed webinar functionality and called the roll. A quorum was not initially present but was obtained shortly after the start of the meeting.

2. Staff/Chairman's report – Dr. Marc Horney, *Chair*

Dr. Wolf provided the RMAC update to the Board of Forestry & Fire Protection ('Board') at their meeting last month.

Dr. Horney reported that he and Dr. spoke briefly about planning for the RMAC annual educational program.

Skipped item 3 because a quorum was not present at the time.

Approximate start time on video recording: 00:12:30

4. Expiring Member Terms and New Member Nomination(s): Discussion and recommendations for appointment or reappointment to the RMAC – Dr. Wolf, *Board Staff*

- Member Roney's seat is open, and Member Hagata will step down after expiration of his term in June. Both seats are statutorily to be filled by individuals nominated by organizations representing rangeland owners.
- Member Bush noted that she has been excited to think about folks in the range space, and she brought Jack Anderson Thrift of Cuyama Lamb to the table, who works very closely with the Santa Barbara Fire Department and Fire Safe Council; they are achieving broad-scale prescribed grazing with their sheep operation all over the County. That project was funded by the CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grants Program. He would need to be nominated by an organization that represents rangeland owners, so she will seek that nomination. He was invited to the meeting today, but he was unable to join as something came up with his sheep that day. Member Soares noted that the California Wool Growers' would be willing to nominate Jack. Dr. Horney noted that Dr. Larson had indicated there was someone

potentially interested in a seat. Dr. Wolf has also provided information on nominations and serving on the RMAC to several potentially interested applicants.

- Potential Applicants should be nominated by an organization representing rangeland owners, and nominations can be made using the Nomination Form.

Resources – all documents and forms are available online:

- [RMAC Membership and Terms](#)
- [RMAC Call for Applications](#)
- [RMAC Member Nomination Form](#)

Action Items

- One seat remains open, and a second will expire in June 2024; if the RMAC has nominees, they will be reviewed at the next RMAC meeting after applications/nominations are received.
- Nominees, if any, may submit a Letter of Interest and CV to **Dr. Wolf** via email. Nominating Organizations may submit nominations to Dr. Wolf via [email](#) using the following template: [RMAC Member Nomination Form](#)

Approximate start time on video recording: 00:18:00

5. RMAC Impact and Engagement Vision – Cole Bush, Member

Member Bush wanted to discuss this topic to engage the committee members specifically, and this is likely to be an ongoing agenda item. It is important to engage all members, and as we bring on new members it is a good time to reassess the RMAC's goals, review its accomplishments, and determine potentially new directions. Member Bush asked how the RMAC can be impactful as an advisory committee to the Board. It might be a good time to ask why the RMAC exists, what it is doing, and what its goals are.

What is RMAC? What is the legislative mandate? The RMAC is a group of expert appointees that can advise the Board on rangeland resources. As a committee member, Member Bush is not clear on how the RMAC has impacted the Board's decision making since she started with the RMAC. Dr. Wolf noted that the RMAC is a legislatively mandated advisory committee to the Board (per PRC Section 741), and that code lays out the structure of the committee and the RMAC's only mandate is that the Board, California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency, and California Department of Food and Agriculture would be advised by the RMAC on issues under their purview. The RMAC's Strategic Plan provides more information on the goals and priorities of the RMAC and how it operations.

Member Bush noted that the success of the RMAC is dependent on the work that the committee members do, and the resources they leverage as a whole. Member Cole noted her role in leading the Prescribed Herbivory White Paper update, and noted the slow pace of work and input from committee members on the RMAC's stated objectives. There is a lot of interest in doing more work, but the work isn't moving as quickly as planned, so there may be a need to re-strategize, reprioritize, and recommit to certain tasks. She also noted that the Board has not engaged much with the RMAC. Perhaps we should look at the priorities and what has been accomplished and what perhaps needs to be pulled back.

Member Soares noted that the white paper and educational series are two of the greatest products that have come out of the committee, but she wonders if we are getting any of this product out beyond the usual silos (i.e., range folks). She noted she isn't in a position to really be a hands-on member and has considered rotating off; she is not sure she can contribute more than she already is, and she isn't sure the RMAC is making a real difference or that the Board has had any impactful engagement with the RMAC.

Member Bush noted that the RMAC operates with very limited resources – it has no budget and no mechanism for funding, and it has no resources to support the educational program. If the committee members aren't picking up any of the weight, then Dr. Wolf is, and she is only allocated 15% time to work on the RMAC. Thus, the RMAC is really operating in an unsustainable fashion, and it might be a good time to think about how to restructure so it is operating sustainably. What can the RMAC actually do with little to no resources?

Dr. Wolf provided some additional information: the Board only allocates 6 hours a week staff time for the RMAC, and Dr. Wolf is doing well beyond that to keep up with what the RMAC actually needs. In terms of the RMAC's engagement with the Board, the RMAC may provide a brief update on its activities at each of the Board's 10 meetings each year, during which the Board generally does not engage or provide any comments back to the RMAC. If the RMAC is going to expect any kind of input from the Board, she believes the RMAC must clearly and concisely state what it wants from the Board (e.g., money, personnel, etc). Without an **official, written proposal with a clear "ask"**, the Board will not likely engage with the RMAC or provide any additional resources, as it cannot assess whether or not the request falls within its purview, goals, or interests without more details. This has happened in the past; RMAC has requested funding directly from the Board in the past, and received it, but this hasn't been done in recent years. Dr. Wolf also noted that the Board has an RMAC appointee, Katie Delbar, and she could bring up anything pertinent from the RMAC to the Board; she has not done that, but if there were items that the RMAC would like Member Delbar to bring to the Board's attention, then the RMAC can utilize Member Delbar as a direct conduit to the Board.

Dr. Wolf also noted that RMAC engagement on RMAC deliverables usually ranges from 10%-20% of members. The intention of the RMAC is to have a panel of experts doing this work, so greater input and engagement from members is likely expected from advisory committee members.

Member Bush asked: Are there any other advisory committees working similarly to the RMAC that have a more active relationship with the Board? Dr. Wolf noted that the EMC and Joint Institute for Wood Products are advisory committees to the Board, but they have budgets funding research, and they were developed with different mechanisms and for different purposes.

Member Kramer noted a short-/mid-term goal to engage other partners with a longer term goal of then engaging the Board? Dr. Wolf noted that we do engage with dozens of other partners (agencies, non-governmental organizations, etc.), particularly in the context of grazing and vegetation management, and the RMAC does engage regularly with its advised agencies, but it cannot compel any agencies to respond. Having an **explicit goal of what the RMAC wants the Board or its partners to do, or what outcome they want to see, is going to be critical to getting engagement from these partners.**

Dr. Horney iterated that a specific ask is going to be important to engage partners and the Board. The committee doesn't have the bandwidth to do all the things it wants to do; perhaps it needs to

narrow its focus and commit to a subset of objectives that it wants to make headway on this year. Otherwise, perhaps the RMAC needs to revert to its operations in the past (i.e., several years back) in which it just met a few times a year and only focused on maybe one or a few action items to pull off each year. Perhaps the RMAC needs to reassess its goals in the current set of Annual Priorities as outlined in the 2023 Annual Report and Workplan. The RMAC can then set the remaining items to the side for future goals, if it decides to pursue them.

Member Kramer proposed that one satisfying objective for the RCDs would be the opening of additional lands to grazing with biological monitoring and conservation objectives. We have potential demonstration sites, partners, and pilot trials that could be enacted on the ground. So one ask from the Board might be to fund one demonstration site to test the combinations of prescribed herbivory with other traditional (CAL FIRE) vegetation management approaches. Member Larson agreed with the previous statements, and also noted her focus on educational workshops; if she knew how to better have more impact, including attending Board meetings, she is ready to do that. Member Bush indicated her support for this proposal.

Dr. Horney noted that the RMAC needs to develop a clear proposal, budget, and timeline to present to the Board. A subcommittee needs to be formed to develop this. Dr. Wolf cautioned against forming a subcommittee as it would be subject to the Bagley-Keene Act, which would limit its ability to work without publicly noticing meetings; she suggested keeping the action team to a small group of no more than 3, but definitely less than a quorum (in this case, 6), to be safe. It was determined that just a few folks would work on this, and outside partners could be engaged as needed. An action team could be formed to flesh this work out to in partnership with other agencies, and if additional resources are needed to develop and implement this project, then the action team can bring it before the Board to ask for the necessary additional resources to complete the work.

Dr. Wolf also noted that in addition to this potential project, that other focuses of the RMAC at this time include: 1) the deliverables being finalized out of the previous efforts of the State Lands' License and Land Management subcommittee (grazing license and grazing management plan templates, and user guidance booklet); 2) the Annual Educational Series; and the 3) Prescribed Herbivory White Paper update; among many other pending objectives. She noted that substantial work is still needed to bring these efforts to a close, and this additional proposed item would be on top of other ongoing or uninitiated efforts. Dr. Wolf highlighted the many incomplete objectives still on the RMAC's plate. Dr. Horney noted that this will be discussed in an agenda item later today, and other pending objectives and action items will be prioritized with these in-progress items in mind.

Member Kramer noted that the timeline for this new priority needs to be set. Dr. Horney suggested that a proposal be developed with the next Board's meeting in mind. Dr. Wolf noted that the Board's next meeting is in July, so anything that the RMAC produces isn't going to come before the Board until August at the earliest, but likely later, depending on how much progress is made and if the proposal is completed in time to make it on the Board's agenda.

Member Bush encouraged members to think about how the RMAC might operate differently going forward to more effectively and efficiently achieve its stated objectives and better engage the Board.

Dr. Wolf noted that the RMAC may want to develop some markers for success to determine the thresholds at which it can say it accomplished its goal(s) or not, e.g., is at least 75% input from members on deliverables; or completion of 75% of its annual objectives; or at least one RMAC member participates in at least half of all Board meeting and interacts with the Board in a meaningful way (e.g., gives a presentation on a range topic); Dr. Wolf noted that it is best to have items agendized so that the Board is able to engage on the topic; just providing a comment at the Board meetings wouldn't be particularly effective because the Board cannot respond to comments or un-agendized items. Dr. Horney noted this could be a useful and effective way to represent range work and needs in the area (geographic, issues, specific expertise), and can be a great way to educate the Board; Member Bush seconded support for this idea, and feels it could lend support to the need for more rangeland conservation work in California. Dr. Wolf has noted that this approach has been effective in the past at increasing interest and Board engagement on range topics and needs.

Member Kramer noted that a metric about which rangelands have been supported to improve/benefit practices at the landscape scale might be a powerful threshold for success.

Resources – all documents and forms are available online:

- [RMAC Strategic Plan](#)
- [PRC 741](#)
- [2023 Annual Report and Workplan](#)

Action Items

- An **Action Team** will be formed to develop a proposal to share with the RMAC, and once finalized will bring it before the Board. **Member Bush** is interested in contributing to this action team's efforts once the Prescribed Herbivory White Paper Update is wrapped up; **Member Kramer** and **Dr. Larson** may also work on this Action Team. **Member Kramer** suggested a proposal be developed by the next RMAC meeting so it can be finalized, and then it can go before the Board at its August meeting or thereafter.
- **Members of the RMAC** will volunteer to provide presentations to the Board meetings on at least half of its meetings each year. **Member Kramer** committed to a bi-annual (every other year) presentation to the Board.
- **Dr. Horney** will email Board meeting dates to **Dr. Wolf** to disseminate to the committee so that members can volunteer to provide a presentation to the Board at their convenience.

Returned to item 3 because a quorum was present to vote.

Approximate start time on video recording: 01:18:00

3. Approval of Sept 2023 and March 2024 meeting minutes – Dr. Wolf, Board Staff

The draft September meeting minutes were lost during a computer file transition; Dr. Wolf is still hoping to recover them, and if that is not possible, will redraft them for review at a future meeting. The March 2024 minutes were sent out to the RMAC members for their review prior to the meeting.

Discussion

Member Kramer noted a correction to a weblink, the sponsor for the Women in Ranching meeting in September, and who made the comment as noted in the March meeting minutes; Dr. Wolf will make those corrections.

Member Bush motioned to approve the March 2024 meeting minutes with the above correction; Member Larson seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion.

Roll Call Vote

Rich Ross	Absent
Joel Kramer	Aye
Cole Bush	Aye
Bart Cremers	Aye
Dr. Paul Starrs	Absent
Andrée Soares	Aye
Lance Criley	Absent
Dr. Stephanie Larson	Aye
Taylor Hagata	Absent
OPEN SEAT	N/A
Dr. Marc Horney	Aye

Action Item

The motion passes unanimously; the meeting minutes are posted online.

Resources

[March 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes.](#)

Skipped to item 8 to accommodate the invited speaker.

Approximate start time on video recording: 01:38:20

- 8. Introduction to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo’s new WUI-Fire Institute – Frank L. Frievalt, Executive Director, Wildland-Urban Interface Institute, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo**

Executive Director of the WUI Fire Institute, Frank L. Frievalt, gave a presentation on the goals, activities, and focus of the institute. Work on the WUI-Institute goes back to 2013 for the initial discussions, with the group forming in 2019; Frank joined the team about a year ago in 2023. The mission is to help create fire-resilient communities. Frank has been working in the fire world since 1979.

The policies that the state needs support for are going to involve prescribed fire and naturally-occurring fire in ways we haven’t used those tools to date. The WUI Fire Institute will help the State get to some of the land-use policies that it will need to support this kind of work over the next 50 years or so.

The problem of wildfire in the WUI requires a **Coordinated Policy Approach:**

- **Policy Outcome Focus:** The ideal outcome is no loss: all stakeholders want the same outcome → no loss of property or life from wildfire!
- **Mitigation Policy Focus:** The way to protect these areas is to 1) retroactively or proactively harden these structures (retro harden); 2) harden the zones in 0-5’ and up to 100’ ideally

(Defensible Space) including work on reducing ember ignitions; and 3) Community-Level Mitigations are needed to achieve this because once we have structure-to-structure spread, it is too late to stop the fire.

- **Risk Policy Focus:** new and updated maps showing fire hazard zones are important, but unless we are treating acres, having good maps isn't good enough. The best fire science drives the best modeling, which can drive the best planning and mitigating around architecture, firefighting and emergency response, and defensive actions by homeowners and emergency personnel; such an approach closes the loop between scientific data and effective management/practices. Risk transfer industries don't have enough data to value mitigation effectiveness, which makes it hard to promote those practices at a larger scale if there isn't much data to support their use.

The Institute identified several critical steps to develop recommendations on WUI Mitigation and inform risk modeling and management:

- 1) The industry needs the best scientific fire research on heat transfer in the WUI;
- 2) Run WUI Property Loss CAT modeling;
- 3) Develop valuations of mitigation measures and prioritize areas based on risk modeling; and
- 4) Conduct post-fire reconstructions to connect efficacy of mitigation measures to post-fire outcomes, thereby informing the valuation of mitigation measures and risk models. These can then be used to alter outcomes!

Five things are needed to enable the above tasks and thereby improved wildfire mitigation:

- 1) Need to develop a core set of "mitigations that matter";
- 2) Structure-to-structure spread modeling using structure as a new variable for fuel type; best one thus far is out of Colorado State University;
- 3) WUI Response Ratings – communities and insurers don't know how to value equipment, personnel, training, and machinery to determine how effective responses might be; the Institute put together a way for individuals to upload those data so they are publicly accessible;
- 4) WUI data commons are lacking – one irony is that insurance companies—which don't share data and are very competitive—don't know their conflagration risk because they often don't know the adjacent structure risk, and with fire, you need that to determine ember cast, and therefore, total risk; companies need to share those data to make this possible;
- 5) Remove barriers to social support for implementation and maintenance of parcel-level mitigations.

The WUI Fire Institute strategy focuses on disrupting heat transfer along **Fire Pathways (Taxonomy):**

- **WUI Community:** moving from structure to structure; ≥ 100 structures where $\geq 50\%$ have structure separation distance (SSD) is $\geq 70'$
- **Interface:** band within 100' of WUI community boundary to the second layer of structures with SSD $< 70'$

- **Minimum Travel Time Fire Pathway:** ½ to ¼ mile of interface in vegetated landscapes capable of carrying fire.

Three Domains for Disrupting Fire:

1. **Fuel Components:** heat, fuel, oxygen, chemical chain reaction (take any of these away and there is no fire) → how to stop the flame
2. **Propagation Routes:** Convection, Conduction, Radiation, Direct Flame Contact → how to stop the spread
3. **Efficiency (Alignment) Elements:** Fuel, Weather, Topography (when aligned, this creates very fast, destructive conflagrations) → alignment greatly increases fire efficiency

In fighting fires, personnel will focus on concurrently pulling one and/or strategic combinations of the above 11 levers; combining those with Mitigation Measures to best protect communities and increase resilience and improve outcomes → combine these together from public and private resources for the best outcomes.

Discussion

Dr. Horney noted he is part of the WUI Fire Institute at Cal Poly.

Dr. Wolf asked if there is a plan at this time for the WUI Institute on valuing mitigations using prescribed herbivory, or any plans to do so? Frank responded that yes, this tool is being considered, along with mechanical and manual means, pretreatment with retardants, prescribed fire, and strategic type conversions (from more to less flammable vegetation, particularly in chaparral and grasses) to slow fires and provide more time to fight fires. That variable would then be put into an actuarial analysis to help assess risk for private insurers, prioritization to assist with for land/fuels managers, and more.

Frank noted that some of the most devastating fires are the fast-moving ones that often start in grasslands and rangelands, and he believes there will be more recognition going forward in the fire community that fuels management in rangelands is a critical component to landscape-scale fire resilience.

Dr. Wolf noted that the information going into the Prescribed Herbivory White Paper Update would be informative for Frank's work. Member Bush noted that members may provide input on that document.

Resources

All documents and forms are available online:

- [Frank L. Frievalt Presentation](#)
- [Safer From Wildfire Guidelines](#)
- [Wildfire Prepared Home](#)

Approximate start time on video recording: 02:05:20

9. **Updates and Next Steps: Prescribed Herbivory Deliverables** – Cole Bush, *Member*

Prescribed Herbivory 2015 White Paper Update

Edits were requested from the RMAC members at the last meeting, but none were received by Dr. Wolf. Member Bush suggests sending this draft on to the California Wool Growers Association (CWGA) for their input now, and encourages the RMAC members to still provide their input to the paper.

Dr. Wolf noted that at the last meeting there was a request that more information about cattle and prescribed grazing be added, so that is still needed and it is unlikely that the CWGA will add that information.

Member Bush suggested it be sent to the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) for their input on the paper. Member Bush can directly invite CCA's input, perhaps via Rich Ross. Dr. Larson also suggested it be sent to Noah Lopez and Jack Rice, who are two individuals she has been working with on increasing grazing with cattle for vegetation management.

Resources

[9. RMAC Rx Herbivory Fuel Reduction 2024 Update - DRAFT](#)

Action Items

- Member Bush will request edits from the CWGA and the CCA, and will also copy Noah Lopez and Jack Rice.
- RMAC Members should send their edits to the draft to Dr. Wolf.

10. State Lands Grazing License and Land Management (SLGLLM) sub-Committee Deliverables

– Bart Cremers, *Member*

Member Cremers noted that help would be welcome, and finishing this task this year is doable, depending on how in-depth the committee wants to see the deliverables. The grazing license and management plan are largely done, but he would like feedback on them both. He is focused on fleshing out the Guidance Booklet now. This is a priority for completion in 2024. Dr. Wolf noted that until all draft items are finalized, the Department of General Services will not be provided these deliverables for their final review. Dr. Wolf sent requests to Member Ross for comments on the legal aspects of the deliverables, and to the RMAC in general for feedback on all drafts.

Resources

[9. RMAC Rx Herbivory Fuel Reduction 2024 Update - DRAFT](#)

Action Items

- **Member Cremers** will continue to work on this and would like RMAC edits within thirty days, and as soon as possible.
- **Dr. Horney** will send a review to Member Cremers by the end of June.
- **RMAC members** should let Dr. Wolf know if they feel Member Cremers is on the right track for the grazing license agreement within the next two weeks.
- **Member Soares** agreed to read through the draft license agreement and guidance booklet.

Returned to item 6.

Approximate start time on video recording: 02:10:30

- 6. 2023 Annual Report and Workplan and 2024 Annual Priorities** – Dr. Horney, *Chair* and RMAC members

Dr. Horney asked that members assess their ability to complete their assigned objectives listed in the 2024 Annual Priorities, and identify items that should be prioritized for completion and those that can be delayed.

Objective 1a/b: see agenda Item 10, above.

Objective 2a (and related b-e): Dr. Horney and Dr. Wolf are trying to put an event together on oak woodland management related to this, and will continue to push forward on planning this. Dr. Wolf noted that she and Dr. Horney met with Rachelle Hedges last week about this workshop, and the next step is that Rachelle will be reaching out to the California Forestry Association (CFA), California Licensed Forester's Association (CLFA), and the California - Society of American Foresters (SAF) to determine the main partner(s), which will dictate when and where the event is likely to occur. More to come!

Objective 3: Dr. Larson stated that we need to be more proactive in reaching out to our collaborating agencies and partners, and the committee agreed that this is a continued priority.

Objective 4: Dr. Wolf noted her continued and ongoing efforts to get input from advised agencies on range-related items (e.g., CDFA and the Noxious Weeds Program).

Member Bush noted she would like to hear more about CAL FIRE and funding of prescribed grazing projects: what is the review process like? Would like a state of affairs update on this topic.

Resources

- [2023 Annual Report and Workplan](#)
- [10. Sept 2023 Grazing License DRAFT - Clean](#)
- [10. Sept 2023 Grazing License DRAFT - Red Line](#)
- [10. Dec 2023 Mgmt Plan DRAFT - Clean](#)
- [10. Dec 2023 Mgmt Plan DRAFT - Red line](#)
- [10. May 2024 Guidance Book DRAFT](#)

Action Items

- **See Agenda Item 10, above.**
- **Dr. Wolf** will continue to work with Rachelle Hedges to plan the oak woodland management workshop.
- **Dr. Wolf** and **RMAC Members** will continue outreach and collaboration efforts with partners and advised agencies.
- **Dr. Wolf** will reach out to someone at the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program to ask for someone to speak to the RMAC about this.
- **Member Kramer** will connect Dr. Wolf with the grant manager at the (Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation (the RCD of Greater San Diego received a grant that included prescribed grazing from the OEFI).

Returned to Item 7.

Approximate start time on video recording: 02:32:00

7. Annual Educational Workshop Series Planning 2024 – Dr. Larson, *Vice-Chair*

Dr. Larson received some input from Member Cremers about potentially doing a workshop at the Van Vleck Ranch in the Sacramento area. Member Kramers also sent her some information on virtual fencing in San Diego. She would like to clarify the audience, the target for number of workshops and location, and potential timelines. Dr. Wolf noted that a webinar was discussed at the last meeting as being a potential basis to provide a foundation for the workshops. The workshop would focus on livestock grazing and management of native flora and fauna. There are several parcels across Sacramento that are under easement that are grazed and managed for special-status species.

Member Kramer elaborated on the virtual fencing idea: the virtual fencing could be great for a webinar; there is good imagery and can be shown well on screen, and that could be a nice complement.

Dr. Larson noted that if this is framed under climate, she can provide some funding to cover some costs. She will begin working with the Van Vleck Ranch, and can reach out to the Virtual Fence folks to see about a webinar. Member Cremers also mentioned legislative staffers as being potential audience targets; he also noted Jack Rice could be a potential speaker on converting cropland back to rangeland.

Moved to Item 11.

Approximate start time on video recording: 02:45:00

11. Reports on Collaborations with Working Groups or Advised Agencies – Dr. Wolf, *Board staff* and RMAC Members

- **Natural & Working Lands (NWL) Science Team** – Dr. Wolf noted that she continues to engage with this team; at this time she is providing input into the NWL Climate Smart Strategy Update and to the NWL’s Expert Advisory Committee, and their next meeting is May 30th. There are several rounds of grant funding on Core Climate Research (<https://uc-ciee.org/projects/californias-fifth-climate-change-assessment/>), including one on Tribal Research (<https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-05/gfo-23-701r2-californias-fifth-climate-change-assessment-tribal-research>). Dr. Wolf has been sharing information to RMAC listserv about opportunities for involvement and public input. If individuals would like to be included on the listserv, please email Kristina.wolf@bof.ca.gov.
- **Water Board** – June 14, 2024 Water Board meeting in Petaluma on grazing operations (Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Grazing Operations in the North San Francisco Bay Region (Napa River, Sonoma Creek, Petaluma River, and Tomales Bay Watersheds, Including All Grazing Operations in Point Reyes National Seashore): https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/June%2014_Public_Meeting.pdf
- **Member Bush** reported that the Healthy Soils Program is a great program, but it can be hard for producers to complete their plans during/after natural disasters, and there may be some edits in the program in response to those challenges. Member Kramer noted that the state budget has put this funding on hold, and hopefully we will know more in July if funding will be available.

Approximate start time on video recording: 02:51:30

12. Updates from Partner Organizations & Public Forum

a. Legislative Updates

Brian Shobe from CalCAN reported that:

- SB 675 – bill to advance planning and guidance around prescribed grazing for wildfire mitigation; this legislation is still parked in the Assembly, and we are just waiting for them to take up second-year second-house bills. They came to some agreements with CAL FIRE on some amendments last winter, and they are optimistic that the bill will make it through the legislature; the question is whether or not the governor will sign the bill.
- They are planning two educational tours on prescribed grazing for assemblymembers Dawn Addis and Gregg Hart who represent the Central Coast region between Santa Cruz to Santa Barbara Counties.

b. Updates from Partner Organizations

Member Kramer provided an update from the RCD of Greater San Diego:

- San Mateo RCD is holding an 8-part Regenerative Ranching 101 Series starting in August.
- The Carbon Cycle Institute is doing a field training on climate smart grazing on June 5th.
- In San Diego, the RCD hosted the Southern California Regional Meeting of the Wildfire Task Force, and they went to visit Rancho Jamul.

c. Members of the public may address the Committee on any topic within its jurisdiction not otherwise on the agenda. Items will not be discussed in depth but may be agendized for the next committee meeting.

There were no public comments.

Approximate start time on video recording: 2:56:00

13. Announcements, next meeting date, agenda items

The next RMAC meeting will be Monday, July 15, 2024 at 12:30 PM in Sacramento, CA.