

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

P.O. Box 944246  
 SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460  
 Website: [www.bof.fire.ca.gov](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov)  
 (916) 653-8007

**RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, January 11, 2016  
 Sacramento, CA

<b>RMAC Members Present</b>	<b>RMAC Members Absent</b>
Co-chair Lesa Osterholm Rich Ross Bill Burrows Bart Cremers John Van Duyn Billie Roney Cole Bush Sheryl Landrum	Co-chair Marc Horney Chuck Pritchard Andreé Soares Mary Rickert
<b>RMAC Staff</b>	<b>Department Staff</b>
Edith Hannigan Kevin Conway	

Items appear in the order they were presented on the agenda.

**Approve November Minutes**

**01-16-01 Member Ross moved to approve the May minutes. Member Bush seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Van Duyn Aye**  
**Bush Aye**  
**Burrows Aye**  
**Cremers Aye**  
**Roney Aye**  
**Ross Aye**  
**Osterholm Aye**

**The motion passed unanimously, three members absent.**

**Administrative****a. Welcome new members**

RMAC welcomes Member Soares to the committee. Her first meeting will be in March.

**b. 2016 Schedule & Meeting Locations**

Ms. Hannigan updated RMAC on the 2016 meeting schedule. The proposed dates have been finalized, although the March and July meetings will have to end by 1pm because of scheduling conflicts with the Sacramento conference room. Members

discussed starting the meetings at 8am instead of 9 to compensate for the missed time, but ultimately decided it would be best to continue meetings at 9am due to members' travel schedules.

Ms. Hannigan also confirmed that a conference room at the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Templeton has been secured for all the meetings this year for those who would like to attend from there.

**c. CRM Update**

Ms. Hannigan provided a short update on the ongoing legal matter related to Certified Rangeland Manager licensing. The case is proceeding and there is no resolution at this time.

**Focus Group Updates**

**a. Rangeland Water Quality**

**i. Rangeland Service Organizations**

Ms. Hannigan will request the most recent version of this document from Member Horney for distribution/finalization at next meeting.

RMAC members discussed anecdotes from various representatives of local and state water Boards they had heard about whether any local water boards will be taking up the Grazing Regulatory Action Program.

**b. Land Management Tools**

**i. Potential prescribed herbivory pilot project**

Mr. Conway visited Mount Zion State Demonstration Forest for a potential prescribed herbivory project and Member Bush will be joining him for an additional assessment tomorrow. Herbivory is already an allowable activity on the forest and there appears to be appropriate vegetation types.

Member Burrows mentioned the possibility of involving academics to turn the pilot project into a more scientifically valid research project. Mr. Conway indicated that the funding for that type of work isn't available at this time but could be incorporated into future RMAC budgets.

**c. Rangeland Conversion/Forest & Resource Management**

Member Van Duyn discussed state funding for removing dead and dying trees but the lack of infrastructure to do anything with the fallen trees. Assemblymember Dahle may be supporting legislation to direct funding towards biomass facilities. The Committee is interested in exploring how to best support biomass utilization projects.

**d. Public Land Grazing**

**i. Review draft policy language**

Member Cremers and Ms. Hannigan brought forward a final draft of the revised Board and CAL FIRE policies related to grazing, BOF 0330 and 0351.6, and CAL FIRE 5022, 5024.2, and 5052.

Member Ross made a change to 0351.6 section A: "Those that have no clear connection to the role of the state forest in forestland management, demonstration, research, and recreation."

The Committee worked together to revise section B of 0351.6: “Grazing provides a management benefit to the property (e.g. prescribed herbivory to manage vegetation, improve soil health, and/or achieve other ecological goals).” and reflect that language in CAL FIRE policy 5053.

Co-Chair Osterholm clarified that signage giving information about any potential prescribed herbivory or grazing projects would not be discouraged.

**01-16-02 Co-Chair Osterholm moved to approve the proposed policy language and move it forward to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and CAL FIRE, respectively, and recommend the Board and CAL FIRE adopt the proposed changes. Member Ross seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Van Duyn	Aye
Bush	Aye
Burrows	Aye
Cremers	Aye
Roney	Aye
Ross	Aye
Osterholm	Aye

**The motion passed unanimously, three members absent.**

**ii. Review draft State Parks comment letter language**

Ms. Hannigan provided RMAC with draft language to start a template document for responding to requests for public comment on State Parks General Plans and other relevant planning documents. Most of the language was taken from the 2015 prescribed herbivory white paper authored by RMAC members.

RMAC members provided feedback including

- Incorporate recommendations for open grazing, not just prescribed herbivory
- Add cattle to the list of animals that could be utilized for grazing projects but specify “appropriate species” where possible
- Emphasize grazing as a low cost land management alternative
- Either define sustainability or take out discussions of it
- Incorporate a discussion of research that demonstrates the compatibility of grazing and specific species, where those species are of concern in a given project area.

Ms. Hannigan will return with a revised draft at the March meeting.

**e. VTP Program EIR**

Ms. Hannigan provided an update on the Preliminary Draft VTP EIR. The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection continues to review it through workshops and the VTP team spent December making those changes to the document. The team presented those changes to the Board in mid-January for their review and

discussion and their January 26 meeting/workshop. Ms. Hannigan sent out the VTP PEIR to rangeland professionals and experts for their comments and received some feedback that was incorporated into the January changes. When the Board releases the document for public comment under CEQA, Ms. Hannigan will forward the Notice as well as some targeted questions about how the document addresses rangeland to a wider group of rangeland scientists and professionals. Staff will also send the document to RMAC members and direct members to specific page/section numbers that discuss rangeland or other relevant information, as well as a copy of the RMAC letter that was sent addressing the last draft.

**f. Drought**

RMAC members discussed general meteorological reports/predictions.

**“Sustainability” for forests and rangeland definitions**

There was no update on this item.

**Updates from Partner Organizations**

Noelle Cremers – California Farm Bureau Federation – CDFW is hosting three meetings for the Wolf Plan, including one in Sacramento on February 1. Wildlife Services is hosting a predator protection workshop in MacArthur in early February. General discussion of predator issues and CFBF’s involvement.

Co-chair Osterholm requested a US Forest Service update at the next meeting.

**New and Unfinished Business**

**a. SWRCB SB 88 Regulations Update**

Staff received no direction from RMAC to submit a public comment letter, but are watching this issue closely and will report back to RMAC as needed. The State Water Resources Control Board is next meeting to discuss this regulation on January 19 and RMAC staff will be in attendance.

**b. CDFW Draft Conservation Plan for Gray Wolves in California**

RMAC members requested this continue on the agenda to continue discussing:

- Impact to timber industry and general management options if wolf is listed under CESA
- How best to leverage RMAC’s position to encourage collaboration between the range/livestock and timber industries on this issue
- Developing a unified approach, if possible, from RMAC members.

Co-chair Osterholm emphasized the importance of having federal partners at RMAC meetings to assist in addressing this issue.

**RMAC Member Activity Updates**

RMAC members informed each other of upcoming events, including the Brower Center for Grazing conservation event on January 28 and the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition Summit on January 21 and 22.

Member Bush is taking on writing a history of the California Wool Grower's Association and is looking for similar documents to get a sense of appropriate scale, information, data, etc. Members and the public suggested looking at California Cattleman's (in progress) and National Cattleman's as well as Sunsweet Growers 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and possibly a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Member Burrows discussed predator issues.

**Meeting Adjourned.**