

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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**RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, September 10, 2014**  
**Sacramento, CA**

<b>RMAC Members Present</b>	<b>RMAC Members Absent</b>
Co-chair, Marc Horney Ed Anchordoguy Bill Burrows John Van Duyn Cole Bush (nominated)	Chris Marengo Aaron Lazanoff Bart Cremers Mary Rickert
<b>Via Conference:</b> Chuck Pritchard Co-chair, Lesa Osterholm	
<b>RMAC Staff</b>	<b>Department Staff</b>
Kevin Conway Edith Hannigan	David Passovoy

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

**Approval of July Minutes**

Bill Burrows moved to approve the July minutes, with a correction from Ms. Hannigan to add Bart Cremers to the list of absent members. A second came from John Van Duyn and approval came via unanimous voice vote.

**Next Meeting Dates**

Tentatively scheduled November 19, 2014

**Vacant Committee Seats**

- a. **California Wool Growers**  
 Brittany “Cole” Bush has been nominated to fill this vacant position. Her confirmation is on the October 1 Board agenda.
- b. **Watershed Fire Council of Southern California (WFCSC)**  
 George Gentry gave a short update on the possibility of changing the Public Resources Code to delete the reference to the now-defunct WFCSC. The CAL FIRE administration and legislative staff is amenable to supporting this change. RMAC can suggest to the Board a number of different ways to enhance the make up of committee members:
  - generic recommendation to Board to have PRC amended
  - change two members of the general public who have a background and interest in conservation and range resources to *three* members
  - strike number 2 – “one member nominated...” or, replace WFCSC with another organization

- change number 3 – suggest *two* members nominated by Resource Conservation Districts instead of one
- change membership to *eight* members nominated by organizations supporting range and brushland management

The committee discussed the various alternatives and the implications of deleting the reference to a Southern California/maritime chaparral-specific organization. Mr. Gentry suggested the statute language could specify “two members nominated by Resource Conservation Districts, with one representing the Southern California bioregion,” or specify southern counties.

Marc Horney suggested the simplest way to go is to propose three members of the public rather than pigeonhole the committee into specific organizational members. Mr. Gentry clarified that the statute could indicate general membership and the Board could later change via regulation to specify organizations. Over time, the regulation would be easier to change as RMAC’s membership changes than the statute would be.

Chuck made a motion to extend public membership from two to three persons, seconded by Chair Osterholm. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. Mr. Gentry and Mr. Conway will bring the recommendation to the Board at their next meeting.

### **Focus Groups Discussion**

RMAC discussed which topical committees they may like to focus on and who would participate on each.

Assignments are:

Bill Burrows & Cole Bush – herbivory and other land management tools

John Van Duyn & Ed Anchoroguy – rangeland conversion/forest & resource management

Chuck Pritchard & Bart Cremers – public land leases

Lesa Osterholm & Marc Horney – water quality

Chris Marengo & Aaron Lazanoff – drought

In the future, a report from each group will be on the RMAC agenda.

### **Legislative Update**

Ms. Hannigan gave an update on legislation of interest to the members. All of the tracked bills except two were passed in both houses and are either signed by the governor or on his desk. The two bills put on the suspense file were *AB 2184 Timber and engineered wood products assessment: forest restoration grants* and *SB 1413 State responsibility areas: fire prevention fees*.

## **GRAP Update**

On September 9, Chairs Osterholm and Horney and Mr. Conway had a meeting with the State Water Quality Control Board featuring a representative from each region regarding their proposed Grazing Regulatory Action Program. The Water Boards are very interested in learning more about the practical effects of their programs on ranchers and RMAC has offered assistance

- further presentations on the modern science relating to ranching and water quality
- suggesting groups to which the water boards should invite to their listening sessions
- tours and information sessions of current working ranches

## **Public Land Grazing**

Mr. Conway discussed his findings in researching the use of grazing on State Park lands. If a land management tool is not present in the Park's general plan, it has a much higher threshold to approval for use. General Plans are only updated every 15-20 years, which makes it difficult to establish grazing as a land management tool for State Parks at a large landscape level. Grazing is allowed on parks if the park was grazed in the 24 months immediately prior to state parks acquisition or if grazing would bring historical authenticity to the park. Grazing is generally discouraged in the State Parks Commission policy and the Department Operations Manual.

RMAC discussed the possibility of exploring grazing opportunities with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. There is a currently operating lease in Dixon on DFW land with the Solano RCD. The Solano RCD was able to resolve issues that led to most of the similar leases in the state to be withdrawn. RMAC staff will follow up with John Currey and others to determine why the leases were withdrawn, what can be learned from the ongoing Solano lease, and how RMAC can assist in promoting leases with DFW.

## **Grazing as a tool for CAL FIRE's Vegetation Management Program**

Mr. Conway and Members Burrows and Pritchard presented an outline of information to be presented to VMP Foresters to give them tools to consider the use of livestock and grazing as a vegetation management tool in their fuel hazard reduction projects. They asked for assistance in revising and refining the document.

Member Burrows suggested handing out copies of Targeted Grazing to foresters, which is available online for free or \$10 for printed. RMAC discussed ways to update information for contract grazers so VMP foresters have an accurate list of resources when they determine grazing would be an appropriate fuel reduction tool. Chair Horney also wants monitoring to be included and considered. Karen Launchbaugh at the University of Idaho may have a website to use as a repository for this information. She will be in Sacramento for the 2015 Targeted Grazing Committee meeting.

## **FRAP 2015 Rangeland Assessment**

David Passovoy, an environmental scientist with CAL FIRE, discussed the 2015 Rangeland Assessment update. They are currently conducting constituent outreach to evaluate topics to include in the updated assessment and reorganizing the document to be similar to the 2003 template, rather than the 2010 version. The overall message to the

legislature they'd like to communicate with this document is that rangeland is also habitat for wildlife and conversion to other uses is undesirable.

Suggestions to Mr. Passovoy from RMAC include

- the inclusion of the map showing NRCS's defined ecological sites on rangelands, including where to find updated maps and other data from NRCS and information on the value of and use for these ecological sites
- information about how public lands in the state utilize grazing as a vegetation management tool and the differing policies in different agencies on the issue
  - especially on high use recreation areas – East Bay Regional Parks District was suggested as a possible sample
- an emphasis on the importance of the open space sustainability to the long term sustainability of society – for wildlife, for food production, and economic security, if that can be quantified in some way to fit in the goal of the FRAP assessment.
- suggested information about the number of livestock per county (from Department of Food and Agriculture) be compared to the number of range acres in each county
- inclusion of maps of federally held lands in California, and a map of California rangelands by ownership (suggested a large map – 11x14 at least)

### **CRM Exam Update**

Matt Dias, Profession Forester's Licensing Officer, updated RMAC on the most recent Certified Range Manager exam applicants and the new CRM exam standards. There are four applicants for the next exam. The standards for the certification are reviewed every five years; this year the standards are in a proposed rule package that the Board of Forestry has approved for 45 day noticing. RMAC will be notified when the regulation is noticed.

### **New and Unfinished Business**

#### **a. Marin Carbon Project**

Jeff Creque spoke about the Marin Carbon Project to RMAC as a project of interest and discussion for the group.

#### **b. Yellow Legged Frog and Grazing**

RMAC discussed any new land and permitting restrictions due to the recent listing of the yellow legged frog. There are some restrictions in Southern California (Bishop) but do not seem to be any in the North/Plumas region.

#### **c. Vegetation Treatment Plan EIR Update**

The CAL FIRE workgroup has received the final peer review from the California Fire Science Consortium and have plans to be finished with the update by April of next year, when it will be presented to the Board for the public comment and hearing process.

Member Burrows was curious about the addition of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions tracking and how that's being incorporated into VMP plans, particularly with regard to prescribed fire. Mr. Conway directed Member Burrows to the local VMP forester for more detailed information.

### **RMAC Member Activity Updates**

RMAC members discussed the effects of the drought – Member Anchordoguy discussed started feeding earlier than usual and the proliferation of annuals.

Ms. Bush has a video with some of her work with Star Creek Land Stewards to share with RMAC via staff. She noted they have gone through contracts about twice as fast as usual from the drought.

The UC Cooperative Extension “Voices of the Drought” project continues to look for more ranchers to participate. Chair Horney is working on some projects to incorporate grazing on state university properties through their facilities departments.

CARC is meeting November 11-15 in Ventura

On October 20 there is a workshop on the Rancher’s Self-Sustainability Act in Salinas at the UC Extension building. This will be presented at the Society for Range Management in February and a discussion/outline will be on the November RMAC agenda.