

# Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) 2014- 2016 Priorities

## Mission of RMAC

The mission of RMAC is to be an advocate to public agencies promoting scientifically and economically sound policies that affect the sustainability of California rangeland resources.

### **Priority 1 Communication and Collaboration**

Establish contacts in, and coordination with, the following agencies, with the expectation that RMAC will have better opportunity to provide feedback/input into agency initiatives and policies which impact rangeland resources managed or monitored by state agencies, and public/private users of those resources.

1. Board of Forestry
  - a. Communicate threats to rangelands
  - b. Communicate impending regulations or legislation of concern
  - c. Review and provide comments on the VTP EIR
2. Resources Agency
  - a. Ask to be notified when DFW, State Parks, or Dept. of Conservation or other agency are considering rangeland issues.
  - b. Provide memos to Agency with update, issues under consideration, etc., from RMAC
  - c. RMAC reviews proposed plans affecting CA rangelands.
3. CA State Parks
  - a. Comment letters or oral testimony to CA State Park and Recreation Committee when approving Unit General Plans regarding benefits of grazing as an ecological management tool in addition to its historical, cultural, economic and social benefits.
4. Cal Pac SRM
  - a. Review CRM licensing requirements to make sure they are consistent with statute
  - b. Meet with licensing/testing committee to clarify/streamline requirements
5. Interested Public
  - a. Collaborate and communicate statewide rangeland issues pertaining to rangeland health, grazing, water quality, Veg Mgmt Programs VTP EIR and the Strategic Fire Plan (to include herbivory).
  - b. Host and/or assist in the coordination of an informative and educational meeting with agencies and interested stakeholders. Include UCCE, Rangeland Coalition, CCA, Farm Bureau, etc.

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## **Priority 2: Public Lands Grazing**

1. Increase opportunities
  - a. Stay aware of and comment on Public Agency Land Management Plans under development. Support incorporation of grazing in these plans as appropriate.
  - b. Research existing policies and provide feedback to improve effectiveness (maximize public benefits while minimizing negative environmental impacts)
  - c. Meet with stakeholders to find out what has been done, what needs to be done, what are the hold ups, and how RMAC can help
  - d. Provide expertise in management plans, leases, pilot projects, information on grazing, etc.
  - e. Develop and distribute sample grazing leases with sample scoring criteria to include qualitative criteria such as credit for local rancher, history in business of grazing and/ or with leases, monitoring of grazing, etc. Help create flexibility in leases and dates, encourage longer term leases and to use more criteria than just price/ revenue
2. Reduce fire hazard
  - a. Support grazing proposal within VTP EIR
3. Work with State Agencies to encourage adoption, refinement, and consistent use of appropriate monitoring practices for tracking post-fire recovery, grazing land quality and productivity, grazing impacts, brush encroachment, and wildlife habitat quality.

## **Priority 3- Rangeland Water Quality**

1. Stay engaged in process of proposed Statewide Grazing Regulatory Action Program (GRAP)
  - a. Meet with GRAP staff
    - i. Identify the specific objectives of the proposed action
    - ii. Provide information and collaboration with interested stakeholders about rangeland benefits, health and management
    - iii. Establish a relationship allowing RMAC to have an advisory function to the GRAP team
  - b. Encourage advocacy groups to participate in process
  - c. Submit comment letter as appropriate
2. Discuss and explore opportunities for improving management and monitoring of rangeland water quality impacts on private lands and consider leading an effort to provide any updates, if needed to the 1995 Rangeland Water Quality Program

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## **Priority 4- Drought, Climate Change, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Carbon Sequestration**

1. *Drought- An overall priority of the Range Management Advisory Committee is to monitor current drought conditions and, understanding that these conditions are not only short-term challenges but also persistent, recurring features of Mediterranean climates, evaluate range management decisions made by state agencies in terms of how they impact long-term drought resiliency on public and private rangelands in the state.*
2. Impact on fire hazard
3. Impact on forage
4. Long term impact on rangelands
5. Encourage discussion and inclusion of rangelands in these topics

## **Priority 5- Other**

1. **Rangeland Conversion to development, solar or other single use plan**
2. Continue to encourage restoration of Williamson Act subvention funding and programs
3. Provide feedback to the Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) 2015 update
4. Continue to help refine the Strategic Fire Plan (latest iteration, 2010)
5. Provide feedback on the 2015 SRA Review (and subsequent reviews)
6. Provide feedback on the Department's use of SRA Fee