

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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**RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Sacramento, CA

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

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

**Approve January Minutes**

Member Cremers emailed Ms. Hannigan a correction to action item 01-16-02, Member Ross's seconding of that motion was missed.

**03-16-01 Member Landrum moved to approve the January minutes.  
Member Roney seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Bush Aye**  
**Burrows Aye**  
**Roney Aye**  
**Landrum Aye**  
**Ross Aye**  
**Osterholm Aye**

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

**Legislative Update**

Ms. Hannigan provided the Committee with information regarding bills of interest. Members requested more information about how the drought emergency executive order is being implemented as well as AB 1958 and AB 2162.

**Presentation: Leslie Roche, UC Davis**

Dr Leslie Roche, the new rangeland management specialist at UC Davis, gave the Committee an overview of ongoing hiring, research, and rangeland programming going on at UC Davis and the Co-operative Extension. Research and projects include

- Economic impacts of wolves in California
- US Forest Service trend conditions and monitoring
- Post wildfire grazing – Rough, Rim, King, and Butte fires and developing key indicators for rangeland readiness
- Drought impacts
- Grazing Water Quality Partnership

Dr. Roche also provided information about the Rustici Range Tour taking place in Modoc County this upcoming June.

### **Presentation: Tom Frolli, US Forest Service**

Mr. Frolli, Range Program Manager, provided an update on USFS grazing allotments, funding for grazing improvements and restoration, existing partnerships, and mitigation for grazing impacts on USFS land, as well as grazing post-fire.

### **Focus Group Updates**

#### **a. Rangeland Water Quality**

##### **i. Rangeland Service Organizations**

Ms. Hannigan will review the latest draft and make editorial changes as necessary for the Committee to review at their May meeting.

#### **b. Land Management Tools**

##### **i. Potential prescribed herbivory pilot project**

Member Bush visited the proposed project site with Mr. Conway and brought up her concerns about the palatability of the species on-site. She expressed concerns about the need for supplemental feed and whether that would make the project cost prohibitive for many potential bidders. The Committee discussed the value of supporting a pilot project that wouldn't fully demonstrate the utility of targeted grazing. Member Bush will continue discussing the project with Mr. Conway to evaluate the Committee's options.

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

No update from this focus group.

#### **d. Public Land Grazing**

##### **i. Review draft policy language**

When putting together materials to bring the revised policy language to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, Ms. Hannigan discovered RMAC did not approve, at their last meeting, the full policy language in each section. She presented to the Committee the approved revisions from January in addition to the missing text for discussion and vote.

Co-chair Horney suggested changes to CAL FIRE policy 5053 which the Committee rejected. The Committee revised Board policy 0335 based on the new language presented.

**03-16-02**      **Member Landrum 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 Soares seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Burrows</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Bush</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Cremers</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Roney</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Landrum</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Soares</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ross</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Osterholm</b>	<b>Aye</b>

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

**ii. Review draft State Parks comment letter language**  
No new language was available from Ms. Hannigan.

**e. VTP Program EIR**

Ms. Hannigan provided the Committee with an update on the Board's actions regarding the Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Report. At their March 2 meeting, the Board authorized the Draft VTP EIR for a 60 day public comment period and staff is preparing the necessary CEQA documents required to put the document out for review. Ms. Hannigan will send RMAC the document and the prior RMAC comment letter once the draft is available for public review and comment.

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

Ms. Hannigan provided the Committee with the slideshow presentation Karen Kovacs, from CDFW, gave to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection on the Gray Wolf Conservation Plan and will let the Committee know when the audio of the Board meeting is online if members are interested in listening. Ms. Hannigan will also send along to the Committee the wolves and livestock chapter.

**SWRCB SB 88 Regulations Update**

Ms. Hannigan provided RMAC with the draft regulatory language that the State Water Resources Control Board intends to notice as an emergency regulation with the Office of Administrative Law in the near future. The Committee discussed the draft language and provided Ms. Hannigan with direction to write a public comment letter addressing the regulations' applicability to stockponds. The Committee requested SWRCB exclude

stockponds from these diversion measurements on the basis of cost, loss of environmental benefits, and the difficulty of regularly reporting diversions from remote locations and federal land and directed Ms. Hannigan to write a letter to this effect.

**Updates from Partner Organizations**

There were no updates on this item.

**RMAC Member Activity Updates**

Ms. Hannigan informed the Committee that Mary Rickert has resigned from the Board and as such her ex officio position on RMAC is vacant.

**Meeting Adjourned.**