

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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**RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, July 7, 2016

Sacramento, CA

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

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

**Approve May Minutes**

This item was put over to the September meeting.

**2017 RMAC Meeting Schedule**

Committee members provided staff with their major conflicts for meeting dates in 2017.

Ms. Hannigan will check room availability and report back to members as soon as possible with meeting dates for 2017.

**Focus Group Updates****a. Public Land Grazing****i. Update on the Board's June 14<sup>th</sup> discussion on grazing on state forests policy recommendations**

Co-Chair Osterholm and Ms. Hannigan presented the Committee with revised policy language based on suggestions from the June joint Forest Practice (FPC)/Management Committee meeting. These changes were based on comments from FPC/Management committee members who requested outdated language be removed or revised for consistency and a stronger emphasis on grazing that provided a benefit to the property.

RMAC also discussed putting together some background information on the benefits of grazing as a management tool for the Board members, particularly on recent science that demonstrates the benefits of utilizing grazing. This would be prepared by Co-Chair Osterholm and staff for the Board's August meeting. RMAC discussed how to improve communication

between the Board and the Committee and keep the Board updated on the latest information regarding rangeland-related science and news. RMAC directed staff to put an agenda item to this effect on the September agenda.

**16-07-01 Co-Chair Osterholm made a motion to support these policy changes by staff and the committee and send this language back to the Management Committee at the Board's July meeting.**

Van Duyn	Aye
Burrows	Aye
Cremers	Aye
Roney	Aye
Landrum	Aye
Soares	Aye
Ross	Aye
Horney	Aye
Osterholm	Aye

**The motion passed unanimously with two members absent.**

**ii. Draft grazing leases update**

Sheila Barry circulated a draft lease developed by the UC Cooperative Extension for comments by RMAC members after her presentation at the May meeting. RMAC discussed that lease and how it addressed the needs of the contract grazing community. A discussion followed that covered the practicality of the UCCE template, its audience, and how RMAC might play a role in providing helpful information on grazing leases to producers, managers, and landowners. The Committee decided a lease template may not be the most effective document, but rather a cover letter or white paper about what to address in a lease from those different perspectives. Member Cole volunteered to begin a draft cover letter.

**b. Rangeland Water Quality**

The Committee discussed efforts by regional water boards to address the directive from the State Water Board that they examine grazing regulatory programs and upcoming regional water board meetings addressing these issues. The Committee also discussed ways to find out about the latest rangeland water quality science publications.

Co-Chair Horney informed the committee that the updated Range Water Quality Management Program should be available to the public later this year.

**c. Land Management Tools**

Member Burrows reminded the Committee that comments on the proposed UCCE positions on grazing ruminant nutrition and others are due July 11<sup>th</sup>. The Committee directed staff to send them links to these positions again, to provide personal comment, as well as to comment in support of the various positions on behalf of RMAC.

There was a short update on the proposed prescribed herbivory pilot project; RMAC directed staff to confirm the project's budget availability next year and the RMAC budget overall. Staff mentioned that working with the Board's Effectiveness Monitoring Committee might be a way to get more funding and/or support for the project, and she will look into that.

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

**i. Presentation to California Board of Food and Agriculture, August 2**

Member Landrum, Ms. Hannigan, and Tom Smith, CAL FIRE pest specialist, will be presenting to the California Board of Food and Agriculture on August 2 regarding invasive shot hole borer impacts in southern California.

RMAC continued discussing the impacts of beetle kill across the state, including excessive biomass quantities. The Committee directed staff to write a letter to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection covering the threat to oak species (and related impacts – habitat conversion, fire danger, water quality, erosion, air quality, recreational value, etc), support continued funding from the Governor's Office for this issue, widen the area of concern under the Tree Mortality Task Force, and emphasizing the biomass issue. Member Landrum and Co-Chair Horney agreed to assist staff in developing this communication.

**e. Drought**

There are no updates for this group. As the ongoing drought is something impacting all focus group, Co-Chair Landrum directed staff to remove this focus group from the agenda unless a drought-specific item comes up that cannot be reasonably covered by one of the more specific focus groups.

**CalPac Society for Range Management CRM Licensing Update**

Morgan Doran, representing the CalPac Society for Range Management, updated RMAC on the Society's next steps regarding the administration of the Certified Rangeland Manager licensing program. The Society is looking for somewhere to house the program more securely and will continue working with Matt Dias, Executive Officer, and the Professional Forester's Examining Committee to find a solution.

**Legislative Update – SB 1396 Inner Coast Range Program**

Since this meeting's agenda was published, SB 1396 has stalled and staff has no update on that bill in particular. RMAC reviewed the legislative update provided by staff.

**Updates from Partner Organizations**

Morgan Doran, UC Co-operative Extension – new research on the utilization of compost on rangelands and carbon sequestration.

Cole Bush, California Wool Grower's Association – CWGA attended Legislative Day and spoke with six individuals about various bills and had an overall positive day at the Capitol.

**Meeting Adjourned.**