

SB 675 (Limón) Background

Introduced by Senator Monique Limón in February 2023 and sponsored by CalCAN

Three elements of SB 675 were copied into another bill (AB 297) and signed into law in September 2023:

1. Defines prescribed grazing in statute

- *“Prescribed grazing means the lawful application of grazing by a specific kind of livestock at a determined season, duration, and intensity to accomplish defined vegetation or conservation goals, including reducing the risk of wildfire by reducing fuel loads, controlling undesirable or invasive plants, and promoting biodiversity and habitat for special status species. Prescribed grazing may involve any or multiple kinds of livestock.”*

2. Makes prescribed grazing training an eligible "outreach/education" activity in the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program

- *“Public education outreach regarding making homes and communities more wildfire resilient, including training on defensible space and prescribed grazing.”*

3. Removes a sunset on advance payments for equipment and supplies in the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program

The remainder of SB 675 was signed into law in September 2024 and included the following:

4. Clarifies eligibility of projects including fencing or watering improvements

- *“(A) Projects involving the application of prescribed grazing, which may include the installation of fencing or watering improvements... (B) Watering improvements described in subparagraph (A) shall not include the creation of a well or replacement of well infrastructure.”*

5. Requires RMAC to develop guidance for local or regional prescribed grazing plans, in consultation with relevant agencies and experts, by July 1, 2025

- *“On or before July 1, 2025, the Range Management Advisory Committee, established pursuant to Section 741, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, fire ecologists with expertise in the full range of California’s vegetation communities, and the University of California Cooperative Extension Livestock and Natural Resources Advisors and Specialists, shall develop guidance for local or regional prescribed grazing plans. The guidance shall include all of the following...” [see full list on page 6]*
 - *“Best practices for identifying and selecting priority areas for prescribed grazing.”*
 - *“Best practices for developing project plans and metrics for applying, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness and impacts of prescribed grazing.”*
 - *“Best practices for using prescribed grazing to increase the diversity and abundance of native species and decrease the abundance of invasive species, including through adaptive management, exclusion areas, wildlife-friendly fencing, and monitoring.”*
 - *“Best practices for building community support and engaging with public and private landowners to improve the implementation and outcomes of a prescribed grazing plan.”*
 - *“Best practices to use prescribed grazing to support and enhance prescribed burns and other vegetation management projects.”*

6. Requires State Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force to develop strategic action plan to expand the use of prescribed grazing, in consultation with RMAC, by June 30, 2025

- *“On or before June 30, 2025, the task force, in consultation with the Range Management Advisory Committee of the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, established pursuant to Section 741, shall develop a strategic action plan to expand the use of prescribed grazing to support the state’s efforts to increase the pace and scale of wildfire and forest resilience activities and strengthen the protection of communities and reduce their fire risk.”*
 - *“The plan shall include a focus on reducing wildfire risk in and near ‘fire-threatened communities,’ as that term is defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 4124.5.”*
 - *“The strategic action plan shall include a component on monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of prescribed grazing on reducing wildfire risk, including near communities, and the impacts of prescribed grazing on forest and wildland health, promoting the diversity and abundance of native species, and decreasing the abundance of invasive species.”*
 - *“The task force shall consider incorporating prescribed grazing in the January 1, 2026, update to the state’s ‘Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan.’”*

Proposed SB 675 Implementation Process & Timeline Overview

Dates	Guidance for Local/Regional Plans	Strategic Action Plan for Task Force (TF)
Nov 19 Mtg	RMAC discusses process, timeline, & approves RMAC member leads (hereafter “leads”)	Cole & Bart provide update on the Rx grazing Group appointed by the TF
December	Leads draft outline for guidance & consultation list	Rx Grazing Group complete draft Rx Grazing chapter
Jan __ Mtg	RMAC discusses & approves outline & consultation list	TF reviews & revises draft chapter (process & timeline TBD)
February	Leads draft guidance	
Mar __ Mtg	RMAC discusses draft guidance	
April	Kristina shares draft guidance w/ consultation list & invites feedback by [date]	
	Written public comment period (__ weeks)	
May __ Mtg	RMAC discusses feedback received & recommends updates to draft guidance	
June	Leads revise draft guidance	TF completes draft Strategic Action Plan
July _ Mtg	RMAC approves guidance	
August	Kristina shares guidance w/ CalFire/DOC staff	
Future→	RMAC periodically reviews & updates guidance & advises agencies on how to incorporate it	Agencies implement actions in Plan

Consultation List for Guidance for Local and Regional Prescribed Grazing Plans

SB 675 Requirement	Potential Individuals
Department of Fish & Wildlife	TBD
Fire ecologists with expertise in the full range of California's vegetation communities	Lenya Quinn Davidson and members of the <u>UCANR Fire Network</u>
UC Livestock & Natural Resources Advisors & Specialists	Devii Rao, Dan Macon, Tracy Schohr, Leslie Roche, etc.
State Water Resources Control Board*	TBD
Regional Water Quality Control Boards*	TBD

* As explained in Senator Limón's letter to the Senate's Daily Journal

Guidance for Local and Regional Prescribed Grazing Plans

SB 675 Requirement	Existing Resources to Build On
(1) Best practices for identifying and selecting priority areas for prescribed grazing.	RMAC Rx Grazing White Paper “Site Evaluation”
(2) Best practices for developing project plans and metrics for applying, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness and impacts of prescribed grazing.	RMAC Rx Grazing White Paper “Site Assessment”; RMAC State Lands Grazing Template; Foss & Shapero study on RDM levels & fire behavior (in process)
(3) Best practices for using prescribed grazing to increase the diversity and abundance of native species and decrease the abundance of invasive species, including through adaptive management, exclusion areas, wildlife-friendly fencing, and monitoring.	RMAC Rx Grazing White Paper “Best Mgmt Practices”; <u>Grazing for Biodiversity in Californian Mediterranean Grasslands</u> (Bartolome et al, 2014); other studies
(4) Recommendations for securing sufficient land and resources, including forage, needed to pasture livestock when not engaged in a prescribed grazing project.	CWGA’s Targeted Grazing Committee
(5) Best practices for building community support and engaging with public and private landowners to improve the implementation and outcomes of a prescribed grazing plan.	RMAC Rx Grazing White Paper “Best Mgmt Practices”; <u>Targeted Grazing, A Primer for Consumers</u> (Macon, 2018); CWGA’s Targeted Grazing Committee
(6) Methods to identify opportunities to house and maintain shared grazing infrastructure.	Sarah Keiser, author of Community Supported Grazing Cooperatives Anthology; East Bay Regional Parks
(7) Best practices to use prescribed grazing to support and enhance prescribed burns and other vegetation management projects.	Foss & Shapero study on RDM levels & fire behavior
(8) Best practices for use of prescribed grazing for reducing wildfire risk in and near fire-threatened communities, as that term is defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 4124.5.	RMAC Rx Grazing White Paper “Best Mgmt Practices” and “Contracting”; CWGA’s Targeted Grazing Committee
(9) Other recommendations to increase the pace and scale of prescribed grazing at the local or regional levels, where appropriate.	

Strategic Action Plan Example Table

Category of Action	Example Actions	Agency Responsible
State Budget	Fund Rx grazing infrastructure via ___ program(s)	Legislature → CDFA/CNRA/WCB/CDFW
Federal Budget & Policy	Increase EQIP/CSP uptake for Rx grazing Change ___ about National Forest Service Grazing Permits/Allotments	NRCS w/ support from CDFA, RCDs, etc (see C2P2 MOU) NFS
Improve Existing Programs	Change ___ about Wildfire Prevention Grants Program, Regional Forest & Fire Capacity Program	CalFire, DOC
Improve Regulatory Efficiency	Develop CEQA/CalVTP case studies and “pathways” guidance for Rx grazing projects Streamline water quality permits for Rx grazing projects	CalFire Regional Water Boards
Regulatory Incentives	Clarify insurance premium discounts for homes & neighborhoods that use Rx Grazing for defensible space	Dept of Insurance
Interagency Coordination	Consult w/ RMAC re: Rx grazing projects on state-owned and managed lands	CDFW, CalTrans, CA State Parks
Research	Fund research on ____, ____, & ____	CalFire, CNRA, CDFA
Workforce Development	Support CRM streamlining and recruitment	BOF, UCANR, CSUs, CCCs

For an example, see the Increase “Prescribed Fire” section on pages 19-20 of the 2021 [Wildfire & Forest Resilience Action Plan](#)