

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Keith Gilles, Chair

Wade Crowfoot, *Secretary*
Gavin Newsom, *Governor*

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 653-8007
(916) 653-0989 FAX
[BOF Website \(www.bof.fire.ca.gov\)](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov)



RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 12th, 2019

Sacramento, CA

RMAC Members Present

Chair Marc Horney
Lesla Osterholm
Lance Criley
Billie Roney
Rich Ross

RMAC Members Absent

Russell Chamberlin
Andrée Soares
Bart Cremers
John Van Duyn
Don Watson
Sheryl Landrum
Katie Delbar, ex officio member

RMAC Staff

Brandi Goss
Edith Hannigan

Department Staff

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

Staff Report

Approve January 2019 Minutes

The members present had no comments on the minutes. A quorum was not present so no vote was taken.

Approve 2019 Priorities

Member Osterholm would like to focus on identifying projects that are needed to improve rangeland health and communicating those types of projects to various agencies who fulfill grants so that rangeland health can more easily be addressed. Member Osterholm also discussed a letter to the Natural Resources Conservation Service to encourage the use of grazing on forested land in addition to rangelands.

Member Roney asked for predator/livestock conflicts to be added to Priority 3 – particularly interactions between wolves and livestock.

A quorum was not present so no vote was taken.

California Rangeland Conservation Coalition Summit Recap

Member Osterholm gave a presentation summarizing the key points of the CRCC Summit in January for the Committee. The subject of the CRCC Summit was the role of grazing and livestock in California's current fire regime.

Rangeland Research – Lynn Huntsinger, UC Berkeley

Dr. Lynn Huntsinger gave a presentation regarding grazing in forest lands and the application of prescribed grazing for fire prevention. She discussed California's history of fire suppression, her dissertation research regarding brush management on timber plantations, and the applicability of grazing as a fuels management tool.

Annotated Bibliography of Rangeland Research

The committee decided to move forward on three topic areas for research:

- 1) Water quality issues associated with grazing.
- 2) Post-fire management and the use of grazing animals to support plant succession.
- 3) Grazing for brush management.

Water Quality – Update on February 22 meeting with Water Boards

Edith and Chair Horney provided a summary of the discussions that occurred during the February 22nd meeting with the Central Valley and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Boards. RMAC staff will have a meeting with the Water Board staff to better understand the 303(d) listing process to improve the Committee's ability to effectively comment on these issues.

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Staff from the Central Valley, Lahontan, and State Water Boards were present at the RMAC meeting. RMAC members and Water Board staff discussed the development of the non-point source permit, the process for identifying the source of water quality impacts, financial pressures on rangeland owners related to permitting, the management of rangelands for multiple objectives while taking trade-offs into consideration, and outreach efforts that can assist in improving water quality on rangelands.

The Committee and the Water Board staff agreed that RMAC would participate in stakeholder meetings for the development of the non-point source permit and that Water Board staff would regularly participate in RMAC meetings.

Grazing and Fire Prevention

Craig Ostergaard, Reforestation Manager for the Southern District of Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), spoke about SPI's use of grazing animals for fire prevention on SPI land. They have utilized cattle for years in a variety of situations and are currently working on a lease for goats and sheep to clear new fuel breaks which would later be maintained with cattle. He also discussed the applicability of livestock management techniques for mitigating water quality impacts which lead into a discussion of adaptive management.

The Committee discussed the development of the CalVTP and the inclusion of grazing as a treatment method.

Updates from Partner Organizations & Public Forum

No updates were offered during the public forum.

Meeting Adjourned