

Range Resource Management Plans (RMPs) / Grazing Management Plans (GMPs) / Grazing Agreements (GAs)

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Overview

1. Some Considerations—Use Grazing for Reduction of Fire Fuels in Short- and Long-Term
2. Base Grazing Agreements (GAs) on Grazing Management Plans (GMPs); and GMPs on Range Resource Management Plans (RMPs)
3. Info for a Range RMP
4. Info for a GMP
5. Conclusions

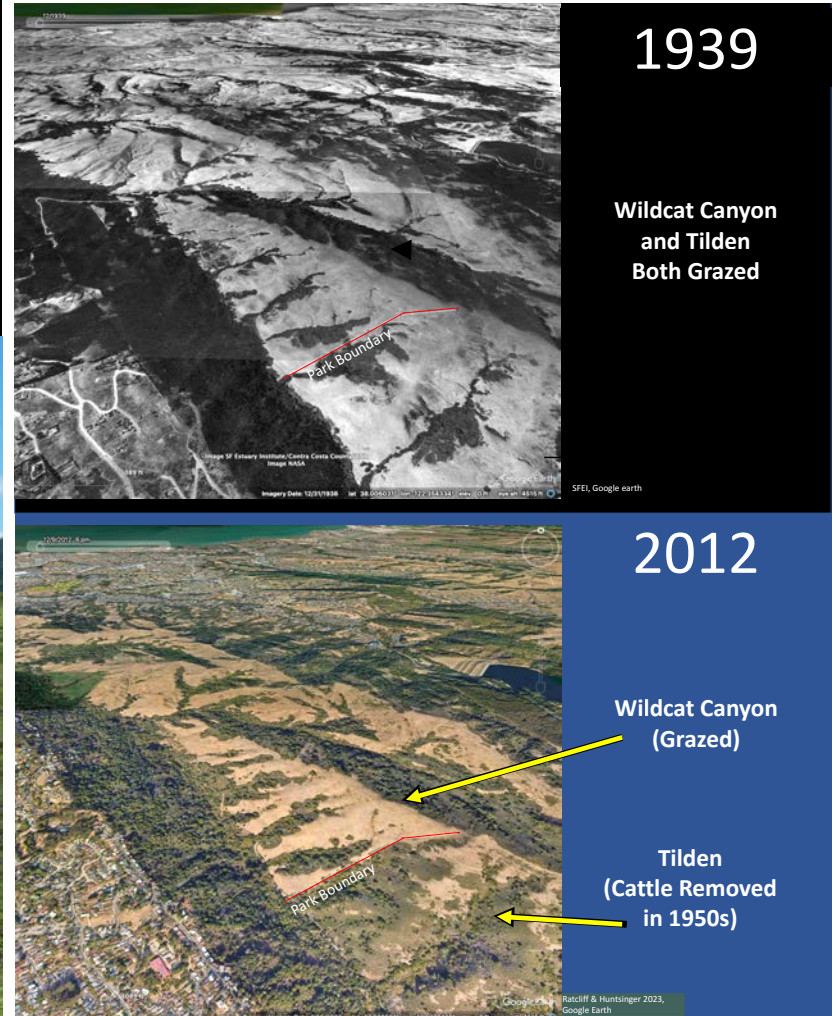
Many Calif.
Range
Management
Goals Include
Reducing
Annual Grass
Biomass as
Fire Fuel and
to Optimize
Habitat



Shrub Encroachment into Coast Range Grassland When Neither Grazed or Burned → loss of grassland habitat and increased woody fire fuel over long-term



Grazing Reduces Shrub Encroachment



Why Graze for Fuel Reduction?

- Cost effective
- Can treat large, remote areas
- Can treat steep and rocky slopes
- Compatibility with other management goals:
 - Improve special habitat
 - Reduce shrub encroachment
- Other benefits
 - Infrastructure maintenance
 - “Eyes on the ground”



Photo: Sheila Barry

First—> Range Resource Management Plans (RMP)

1. Describe broad context and guidance based on existing biological and cultural resources assessments
2. Cover non-grazing issues, including resources not affected by grazing
3. Cite related regional plans, regulations, and agency requirements

Second—> Grazing Management Plans (GMP)

1. Describe grazing management goals, objectives, and performance standards as basis for plan
2. Describe how the biological and cultural resources (reference the RMP), especially special resources and concerns, occur are affected by grazing
3. Describe the grazing program
4. Must be feasible and sustainable for the livestock operator

Third—> Grazing Agreements (GA)

- Reference the GMP for details of the landowner's intentions for the grazing program, how it will be implemented and monitored, and expected results
- Terms of the legal agreement--fees, duration, and restrictions on use



Planning Elements:	Development Activity Inventory / Document	Goals, Objectives, Performance Standards	Incorporate Fire Hazard, Pest Plant, Soil Erosion, Water Quality Management	Grazing Prescription, Monitoring for Special Resource Habitat and Populations	Natural Resource Inventory, Assessment, and Analysis of Management Effects	Cultural Resource Inventory, Assessment, and Analysis of Management Effects	NEPA / CEQA Process (if permit required)	Degree of Planning Detail / Cost
Planning Purposes:								
1. Simple Ranch Plan. Maintenance of Existing Rural Ranching Activities and Economy; General Conservation (public land designation or private land easement)	X	X						Low
2. Simple GMP. Maintain Biodiversity, Fire Hazard Reduction, and Recreation Opportunity (public land agency park, open space)	X	X	X	X			General guidelines to avoid impacts	Moderate
3. RMP. Maintain condition of natural and cultural resources (public land designation)	X	X	X		X	X	General guidelines to avoid impacts	High
4. Complex GMP. Dedicated for Habitat of Special-Status Species or Natural Communities (#4 + land easement)	X	X	X	X	X		General guidelines to avoid impacts	High

Info for a Range RMP

Key Contents:

1. Introduction—Property Description, History
2. Existing Regulatory Requirements, Easements, and Resource Assessments
3. Management Goals, Objectives, and Performance Standards
4. Natural Resources
4. Cultural Resources
5. Environmental Risk Assessments

Info for a Range RMP

Key Contents, Cont'd:

6. Required Constraints
7. Personnel and Infrastructure Needs
8. Public Access
9. Public and Staff Safety and Security
10. Grazing Program
11. Monitoring Guidelines
12. Costs Using Multiple Management Tools

Info for a GMP

Key Contents:

1. Description of Current Site Conditions (reference other documents without duplicating)
2. Impacts of Grazing on Resources of Concern
 - Summary of Expected Grazing Effects on Special Resources and Desired Management Outcomes
 - Potential Conflicts
 - Effects of Climate Change

Info for a GMP

Key Contents, Cont'd:

3. Grazing Management Goals, Objectives, and Performance Standards

4. Grazing Program

- Glossary
- Grazing Capacity
- Special Management Areas for Targeted and Deferred Grazing
- Conflict Mitigation Strategies

Info for a GMP

Key Contents, Cont'd:

4. Grazing Program, Cont'd

- Communications
- Livestock Lease/License Options and Recommendations
- Grazing Fee Credit Options and Other Incentives for Stewardship Cooperation
- Infrastructure Conditions, Required Improvements, Wildlife Friendliness
- Extreme Weather Preparedness and Response

Info for a GMP

Key Contents, Cont'd:

5. Monitoring, Reporting, and Plan Adaptation
6. Summary of Requirements and Recommendations



Concluding Considerations:

1. Make this Planning Effective, Efficient, and Affordable for All Involved
 - a. Develop a Broader RMP and Append a specific GMP before developing the GA
 - b. Make sure your monitoring plan is tailored to your goals and produces information that you can use for adaptive management
 - c. Save on labor costs by using a CA licensed Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM) to supervise agency staff
 - d. Develop regional templates to tier local plans
 - e. Cooperate with local ranchers—expertise, feasibility
 - f. Subsidies by state for planning, monitoring, and grazing services

Concluding Considerations:

2. Sources of Expertise and Reliable (Validated) Information

- a. New scientific research and publications on grazing in Calif. Annual Grassland to significantly reduce fire fuels
- b. CRMs
- c. UC Coop Extension
- d. NRCS
- e. CCRC Workshop on grazing and fire fuels April 20, 2023 (Google “Central Coast Rangeland Coalition”)
 - R. Peterson presentation
 - R. Foss presentation