

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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**Range Management Advisory Committee Meeting (RMAC)****Meeting Minutes****Meeting Date:** Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 9:00 AM**Primary Location:** California Natural Resources Agency Headquarters, 715 P Street, Sacramento, 95814, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Conference Room 310**Secondary Locations:**

- Star Creek Land Stewards, Inc. – 1232 California Avenue, Los Banos, 93635
- Cal Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo – Alan A. Erhart Agriculture Building, Building 10, Room 101, 1 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, 93407
- UC Cooperative Extension Sonoma County – 133 Aviation Boulevard, Suite 109, Santa Rosa, 95403
- Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego – 11769 Waterhill Road, Lakeside, CA 92040
- Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council – 201 Bryant St, Ojai, CA 93023

See the [Nov 19, 2024 Agenda](#) for further details.

The meeting recording may be retained for a limited amount of time, and during that time, may be observed by completing registration at the following weblink. Access to the recording is not guaranteed at any given time.

**Webinar Recording Access Link:**<https://calfire.box.com/s/oji2zuwsxbwlyk1az1efj1h0r3z0dw6m>**ROLL CALL****RMAC Members Present (9)**

Chair, Dr. Marc Horney – in person at Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo

Vice-Chair, Dr. Stephanie Larson – in person at UCCE Sonoma County

Rich Ross – in person at CNRA Headquarters

Dr. Paul Starrs – in person at UCCE Sonoma County

Jeremy Walker – in person at Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego

Lance Criley – in person at Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego

Katie Delbar – in person at CNRA Headquarters

Cole Bush – virtual only (non-voting)

Andrée Soares – virtual only (non-voting)

*The Board's mission is to lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of forest and rangelands, and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state.*

***A quorum was present with 7 voting members at noticed locations.***

**RMAC Members Absent (3)**

Bart Cremers  
Joel Kramer  
Andrée Soares  
OPEN SEAT

**Board Staff (2)**

Dr. Kristina Wolf, Environmental Scientist – in person at CNRA Headquarters  
Deniele Casarrubia (formerly Cade) – virtual

**Department Staff (1)**

Steve Fountain, Technical Support – in person at CNRA Headquarters

**Public Attendees (12)** (*Note: Names for virtual attendees listed only; two audio-only attendees identified by a phone number are not listed here*)

Michael Dolan, Lawrence Ford, Alan Bower, Mary Fiore-Wagner, Jeanette Griffin, Wyatt Hanson, Gary Montgomery, David Kelley, Anthony Stornetta (presenter), Noah Lopez, Mo Loden, Rosalina Gonzalez

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**AGENDA ITEMS and MEETING MINUTES:**

Items are numbered by their corresponding number on the agenda and documented below in order of their introduction during the meeting.

**1. Call to Order, Webinar Meeting Format, and Roll Call – Dr. Wolf, Board Staff**

Dr. Wolf reviewed webinar functionality and called the roll. A quorum was present.

**2. Staff/Chairman's report – Dr. Marc Horney, Chair**

- **Oak Woodland CRM-RPF training and field workshop**

Have been trying to plan this for several months but have not had confirmation from YG Gentry or Rachelle Hedges about this. The RMAC will begin plans for this workshop to occur in late spring and will bring on partners based on availability and interest. Members Walker and Criley volunteered to work with Dr. Wolf on this.

- **CA Resource Conservation District (RCD) Conference – RMAC presentation**

We have tried to coordinate to make this happen for many months, but have not made progress. This effort will be put off for the future.

- **Prescribed Grazing Resources List**

Dissemination of this product was brought up at the last meeting to explore ideas for additional dissemination. The Cal-Pac SRM listserv has already received this, but it has not been posted to the SRM Range Flash, and there are other groups that may find this useful (Farm Bureau, California Wool Growers Association, California Cattlemen's Association) and could help disseminate. Vice-Chair Dr. Larson and Chair Dr. Horney will send Dr. Wolf a list of organizations to send this to by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.

- **Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee**

Dr. Wolf and Member Bush will be providing a presentation on prescribed grazing to this committee at its January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting in Sacramento.

### **3. Approval of meeting minutes – Dr. Wolf, *Board Staff***

The September video recording was not complete, so Dr. Wolf is working with IT to try to get the full version. There are some bugs in Teams still, so it seems to be related to that. If she cannot get the recording, Dr. Wolf will use her notes to develop the meeting minutes.

### **4. Expiring Member Terms and New Member Nomination(s): Discussion and recommendations for appointment or reappointment to the RMAC – Dr. Wolf, *Board Staff***

- **There is one open seat to fill that requires** a nomination by an organization representing rangeland landowners.
- A resume, letter of interest, and nomination form were provided to the members for applicant Mark Gutierrez. The nomination form and resume for Noah Lopez were not received until the day of the meeting, and thus, the RMAC members did not receive them until the day of meeting. The item was tabled until the next meeting due to the lack of complete materials from Noah Lopez.

### **5. State Lands Grazing License & Land Management (SLGLLM) sub-Committee Deliverables – Dr. Larry Ford, *Rangeland Conservation Science* and Member Bart Cremers, *Wildlands***

Dr. Ford and Member Cremers provided a summary of the changes made to the SLGLLM deliverables. A public comment period is open until 11/21/2025. The Water Boards requested an extension, and Dr. Wolf will consult legal about this. After public comments are received, Dr. Wolf will compile comments into the drafts; send to the authors for consideration; send to the Department of General Services (DGS) for their review and comments as soon as possible; incorporate all comments; SLGLLM authors will address comments; Dr. Wolf will incorporate all revisions and comments and finalize the documents for presentation at the first meeting of 2025.

### **6. California State-Certified Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Program (CARX) – Anthony Stornetta, Deputy Fire Chief-Operations, *Santa Barbara County Fire Department***

Mr. Stornetta provided background and information on the recently developed CARx program to increase the expertise and number of burn bosses in California

### **7. Planning for Implementation of SB 675 (2023) Prescribed grazing: local assistance grant program: Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force – Brian Shobe, Policy Director, *California Climate & Agriculture Network*; and RMAC Members Cole Bush and Cremers**

Mr. Shobe provided the background and process for the newly signed bill SB 675, as well as the implementation steps and timeline based on the bill mandates. A written update was also provided on behalf of Dan Macon, who is part of the Prescribed Grazing Working Group for the Wildfire and Resilience Task Force ('Task Force'). Cole Bush and Bart Cremers are also in that Working Group and will act as liaisons to the RMAC for the deliverables that group is developing for the Task Force's Strategic Action Plan. A draft is due to the Task Force by end of December. The local and regional grazing plan guidance is the second deliverable mandated by SB 675, and Dr. Larson volunteered to help with that effort.

Dr. Wolf noted that we do not have the staff support for this work, and Member Delbar also noted that she spoke to the Executive Officer of the Board of Forestry & Fire Protection about needing more staff support. Currently the RMAC has 15% of one full-time Senior Ecologist for staff support. This is not sufficient. Dr. Wolf noted that the Board is waiting on the results for the Budget Change

Proposal for the development of a Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor) that was submitted after SB 675 was signed. She also noted that the Board is looking to hire a student intern to assist with committee work, and that perhaps projects for Chair Dr. Horney's students may be a good source for additional support to the RMAC.

**8. 2023 Annual Report and Workplan and 2024 Annual Priorities – Dr. Horney, *Chair* and RMAC Members**

- **2024 Annual Priorities**

Chair Dr. Horney and Dr. Wolf reviewed the objectives for 2024 and requested progress reports from the RMAC members.

- **2025 Annual Priorities**

Dr. Wolf requested that members send her edits to the 2024 Goals and Objectives to update them for 2025's Annual Priorities, Goals, and Objectives. These will eventually be embedded in the 2024 Annual Report and Workplan that Dr. Wolf will draft.

**9. Annual Educational Workshop Series Planning 2024 – Vice-Chair Dr. Larson**

Please send suggestions for topics, locations, dates, and speakers to Dr. Wolf.

**10. Updates and Next Steps: Prescribed Herbivory Deliverables – Member Bush**

- **Prescribed Herbivory White Paper Update**

Member Bush reported that she and the CWGA Targeted Grazing committee are reviewing the current draft of the white paper, and Dr. Wolf was also incorporating edits based on input received from RMAC members and stakeholders. Ideally the draft will be ready by year end.

- **Prescribed Herbivory Technical Guide**

There is some overlap in items being covered by the other guides in production by the NSA, ASIA (American Sheep Industry Association and SRM, and this should be reviewed before delving into our effort too far. Member Bush noted that we could do some outreach and education to other organizations that have similar goals and objectives so that we are working in unison and not redundant, and she can share what she is seeing as well.

**11. Updates from Partner Organizations & Public Forum**

**a. Legislative Updates**

None

**b. Updates from Partner Organizations**

Member Criley noted that Leah Seavy retired from the range program and that the position is now vacant. The acting is Jenny Jayo.

**12. Announcements, next meeting date, agenda items**

The next RMAC meeting will be Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 12:30 PM in Sacramento, CA. Locations and agenda items were discussed.