

RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
Website: www.bof.fire.ca.gov
(916) 653-8007



September 27, 2022

USDA, NRCS, Office of the Chief
1400 Independence Ave., SW, Room 4081-S
Washington, DC 20250

RE: California Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

Chief Cosby,

The Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is a statutory committee tasked with advising the California Natural Resources Agency and its departments on matters of policy and practice which impact the use, health, and viability of rangeland ecosystems in the state of California, particularly on state-managed lands. The members of this committee support the application by the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition (CRCC) and many ranchers in California to re-establish the Grazing Lands Coalition (GLCI/Coalition) in the state of California. This support from USDA would provide the CRCC the capacity it needs to convene partners to update CA GLCI's strategic plan and extend the CA GLCI to include and engage with grazing lands stewards not previously included in the statewide organization, particularly tribal lands managers and a rapidly growing population of service grazing providers. We endorse their commitment to this capacity investment to collectively identify and develop durable strategies for delivering technical assistance on ecologically and economically beneficial grazing practices in the State.

The RMAC has worked with CRCC for some years and found it to a reliable and useful partner in convening diverse audiences to address social and practical questions affecting rangelands in California, and we think it one of the better vehicles to use for this GLCI initiative.

We think this effort to bring together grazing lands managers and other stakeholders will meaningfully address many current challenges to livestock producers and risks to California's grazing lands, including drought, wildfire, conversion, and financial viability of operations.

Sincerely,

Marc R. Horney, Ph.D., CRM Lic. #83
Chair, California Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC)