
Senate Bill 675

Background

Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) Role

Dr. Stephanie Larson
RMAC, Vice Chair

Cole Bush, RMAC Member



Senate Bill 675

SB 675, Senator Limón. Prescribed grazing:
The bill requires on or before July 1, 2025, the advisory committee, in consultation with specified entities, develop guidance for local or regional prescribed grazing plans, as provided. The bill would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (department) and the Department of Conservation to consider and incorporate this guidance in specified grant programs, as provided.



Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC)

The Range Management Advisory Committee was statutorily created by Section 741 of the Public Resources Code of the State of California to advise the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture on rangeland resource issues.

Range Management Advisory Committee

Products previous created:

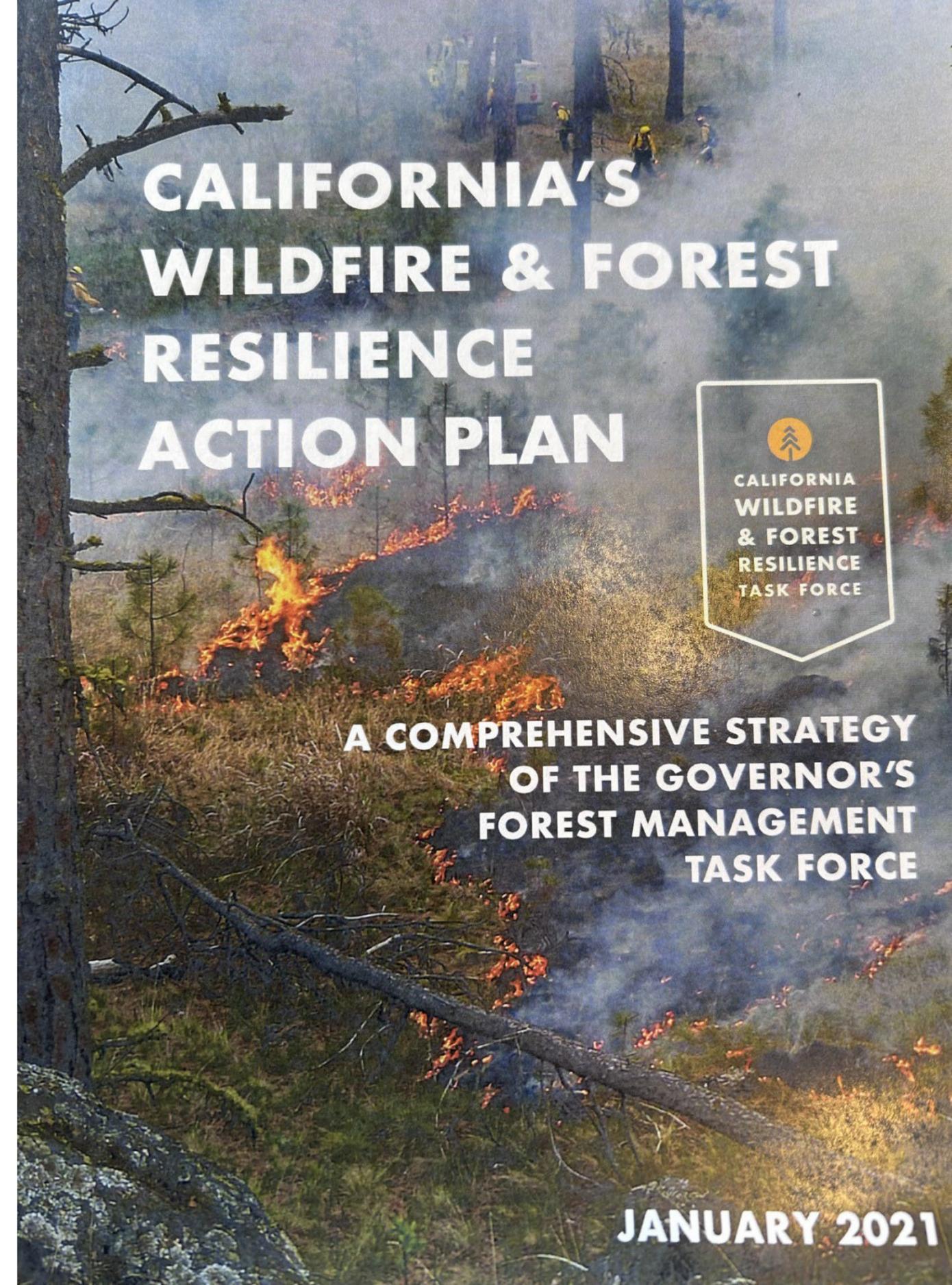
- 2015: White Paper - Prescribed Herbivory for Vegetation Treatment Projects (updated in 2025)
 - 2019 -2024: Annual Public Education Webinar and Field Day Series - Prescribed Grazing for Fuels Management
 - 2024: Grazing for Fuels Reduction Information Infographic (CWGA)
 - 2023 -Present: State Lands Grazing Agreement template Management Action Plan (MAP) template, and accompanying Guidebook
-

Update of the California's Wildfire & Forest Resilience Action Plan Task Force

Expanding Prescribed Grazing for Wildfire Resilience in California: Opportunities and Strategies for Effective Fuels Management

Key Actions

- Increase the use of prescribed grazing across all regions
- Improve regulatory efficiency in permitting and funding prescribed grazing projects
- Provide incentives for using prescribed grazing as a fuels management tool
- Expand monitoring and applied research activities





SB 675 Requirement #1

Best practices for identifying and selecting priority areas for prescribed grazing.

RMAC Rx Grazing White Paper “Site Evaluation”

SB 675 Requirement #2

Best practices for developing project plans and metrics for applying, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness and impacts of prescribed grazing.

Existing Resources to Build on:

- [RMAC Rx Grazing White Paper “Site Assessment”](#)
- [RMAC State Lands Grazing Template](#)

[Foss & Shapero study on RDM levels & fire behavior \(in process\)](#) most recent version of the white paper:

<https://calfire.box.com/s/kmvz8h4nngyzcl6walqxfnz34g01jtas>

old version: <https://calfire.box.com/s/xsyhmr0230av88xdb1m9u7oqyjqlkkcq>





SB 675 Requirement #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.

Existing Resources to Build on:

- RMAC Rx Grazing White Paper “Best Mgmt Practices”
 - [Grazing for Biodiversity in Californian Mediterranean Grasslands](#) (Bartolome et al. 2014)
- other studies



SB 675 Requirement #4

Recommendations for securing sufficient land and resources; including forage, needed to pasture livestock when not engaged in a prescribed grazing project.

Existing Resources to Build on:

CWGA's Targeted Grazing Committee
Match.Graze



SB 675 Requirement #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

Existing Resources to Build on:

- [RMAC Rx Grazing White Paper “Best Mgmt Practices”](#)
- [Targeted Grazing, A Primer for Consumers](#) (Macon 2018)

CWGA’s Targeted Grazing Committee (Cole Bush bc@shepherdesslandl.co, Mark Gutierrez pilotcreekbranch@gmail.com) most recent version of the white paper:

<https://calfire.box.com/s/kmvz8h4nngyzcl6walqxfnz34g01jtas>

old version: <https://calfire.box.com/s/xsyhmr0230av88xdb1m9u7oqyjqlkkcq>



SB 675 Requirement #6

Methods to identify opportunities to house and maintain shared grazing infrastructure.

Conduct a needs assessment of the sharable tools needed for targeted grazing.

- [Sarah Keiser, author of Community Supported Grazing Cooperatives Anthology](#)
East Bay Regional Parks District (Dina Robertson dina.plants@gmail.com; Steve Keller skeller@ebparks.org; Alison Rofe (arofe@ebparks.org)).



SB 675 Requirement #7

Best practices to use prescribed grazing to support and enhance prescribed burns and other vegetation management projects.

Existing Resources to Build on:

[Foss & Shapero study on RDM levels & fire behavior \(in process\)](#)



SB 675 Requirement #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 (Cole Bush, Mark Gutierrez) most recent version of the white paper: <https://calfire.box.com/s/kmvz8h4nngyzcl6walqxfnz34g01jtas>
old version: <https://calfire.box.com/s/xsyhmr0230av88xdb1m9u7oqyjqlkkcq>



SB 675 Requirement #9

Other recommendations to increase the pace and scale of prescribed grazing at the local or regional levels, where appropriate.

[Macon and Roche 2025](#)

Scale up where appropriate; combining private and public land grazing.

Other Resources:

1. RangeDocs online range-related database: <https://docs.rangelandsgateway.org/>
2. Google Scholar online research database
 - **Anderson, M.K.; Keeley, J.E. 2018.** Native peoples' relationship to the California chaparral. In: Underwood, E.C.; Safford, H.D.; Molinari, N.A.; Keeley, J.E., eds. Valuing chaparral. Springer series on environmental management. Cham: Springer International Publishing: 79-121. Chapter Chapter 4. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-68303-4_4.
 - **Barry, S.; Huntsinger, L. 2021.** Rangeland land-sharing, livestock grazing's role in the conservation of imperiled species. Sustainability. 13(8): 4466. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13084466>.
 - **Balch, J.K.; Bradley, B.A.; D'Antonio, C.M.; Gomez-Dans, J. 2013.** Introduced annual grass increases regional fire activity across the arid western USA (1980-2009). Glob Chang Biol. 19(1): 173-83. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.12046>.
 - **Barry, S.J. 2015.** Understanding working rangelands: The benefits of livestock grazing California's annual grasslands. 8517 Richmond, CA: The University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR),. 7. <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8517.pdf>. (February 13, 2025).
 - **Barry, S.J. 2022.** Sustain livestock ranching to sustain habitat: Land sharing at risk on San Francisco bay area exacted conservation easements. Ecology and Society. 27(3) <https://doi.org/10.5751/es-13459-270333>.
 - **Bell, C.E.; Ditomaso, J.M.; Brooks, M.L. 2009.** Invasive plants and wildfires in southern California. 8397. Oakland, CA: UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8397.pdf>.
 - **Belsky, A.J.; Matzke, A.; Uselman, S. 1999.** Survey of livestock influences on stream and riparian ecosystems in the western United States. Journal of Soil and Water Conservation. 54(1): 419-431. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224561.1999.12457258>.
 - **Biggs, N. 2022.** Drivers and constraints of land use transitions on western grasslands: Insights from a California mountain ranching community. Landsc Ecol. 37(4): 1185-1205. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10980-021-01385-6>.
 - **Biggs, N.B.; Hafner, J.; Mashiri, F.E.; Huntsinger, L.; Lambin, E.F. 2021.** Payments for ecosystem services within the hybrid governance model: Evaluating policy alignment and complementarity on California rangelands. Ecology and Society. 26(1) <https://doi.org/10.5751/es-12254-260119>.
 - **Brooks, M.; Matchett, J. 2006.** Spatial and temporal patterns of wildfires in the Mojave desert, 1980-2004. Journal of Arid Environments. 67: 148-164. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaridenv.2006.09.027>.
 - **Brunson, M.W.; Huntsinger, L. 2008.** Ranching as a conservation strategy: Can old ranchers save the new west? Rangeland Ecology & Management. 61(2): 137-147. <https://doi.org/10.2111/07-063.1>.
 - **Chavez Rodriguez, L.; Parker, S.; Fiore, N.M.; Allison, S.D.; Goulden, M.L. 2023.** Impact of drought on ecohydrology of southern California grassland and shrubland. Ecosystems. 27(1): 106-121. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10021-023-00876-8>.
 - **Cheatum, M.; Casey, F.; Alvarez, P.; Parkhurst, B. 2011.** Payments for ecosystem services: A California rancher perspective. Washington, DC: Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, Duke University. 74 p. https://carangeland.org/images/payments_for_ecosystem_services_a_california_rancher_perspective.pdf.
 - **Copeland, S.M.; On, S.P.H.; Latimer, A.M.; Damschen, E.I.; Eskelinen, A.M.; Fernandez-Going, B.; Spasojevic, M.J.; Anacker, B.L.; Thorne, J.H. 2016.** Ecological effects of extreme drought on Californian herbaceous plant communities. Ecological Monographs. 86(3): 295-311. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecm.1218>.
- D'Antonio, C.; Bainbridge, S.; Kennedy, C.; Bartolome, J.; Reynolds, S. 2002.** Ecology and restoration of California grasslands with special emphasis on the influence of fire and grazing on native grassland species. Report to the Packard Foundation. 1-99 p. <https://d1wqtxts1xzle7.cloudfront.net/91931759/fileaccess-libre.pdf?1664830708=&response-content->



Partners

- Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)
- Department of Conservation

- Cal Fire personnel
- California Cattlemen
- California Woolgrowers
- Fire ecologists and botanists
- UCANR Specialists & Advisors
- Fire Safe Councils
- Many more.....



Regional Guidance for Prescribed Grazing

Counties marked with an (*) contain areas in another region as well.

- Coastal Inland** – *Devii Rao & Marc Horney*: Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno*, Kern*, Kings, Madera*, Marin*, Mariposa*, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Tulare*, Ventura*
- Sierra-Cascade-Inyo** – *Noah Lopez & Kristina Wolf*: Alpine, Amador, Butte*, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno*, Inyo, Kern*, Lassen, Madera*, Mariposa*, Modoc*, Mono, Nevada, Placer*, Plumas, Shasta*, Sierra, Siskiyou*, Tehama*, Trinity*, Tulare*, Tuolumne, Yuba*
- North Coast** – *Stephanie Larson*: Butte*, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Marin*, Mendocino, Modoc*, Napa, Placer*, Sacramento, Shasta*, Siskiyou*, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama*, Trinity*, Yolo, Yuba*
- Southern** - *Joel Kramer & Cole Bush*: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura*

Ecoregions for Regional RX Grazing Guidelines

Ecological Sections of California



- California Coastal Chaparral Forest and Shrub**
 - 261A: Central California Coast
 - 261B: Southern California Coast
- California Coastal Range Shrub - Forest - Meadow**
 - M262A: Central California Coast Ranges
 - M262B: Southern California Mountains and Valleys
- California Coastal Steppe - Mixed Forest - Redwood Forest**
 - 263A: Northern California Coast
- Sierran Forest - Alpine Meadows**
 - M261A: Klamath Mountains
 - M261B: Northern California Coast Ranges
 - M261C: Northern California Interior Coast Ranges
 - M261D: Southern Cascades
 - M261E: Sierra Nevada
 - M261F: Sierra Nevada Foothills
 - M261G: Modoc Plateau

- American Semi-Desert and Desert**
 - 322A: Mojave Desert
 - 322B: Sonoran Desert
 - 322C: Colorado Desert
- Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert**
 - 341D: Mono
 - 341F: Southeastern Great Basin
- Intermountain Semi-Desert**
 - 342B: Northwestern Basin and Range
- California Dry Steppe**
 - 262A: Great Valley

California Coastal Chaparral Forest and Shrub
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The Invitation: The Product

Collaborate to develop, advise, & review the Regional Grazing Guidelines for specific contexts around the state.

What we will produce

A product used to develop rx grazing projects that can be funded through existing and future grants programs, taking into consideration ecological sensitivities, and the unique and diverse contexts where rx grazing can be applied

Together we will:

Decide what's in the guidelines?

Share current projects, considerations, constraints, & opportunities

Answer most common questions regarding rx grazing in various regions and contexts

Kick-off Goals

- To introduce what the Regional Rx Grazing “Guidelines” are to give potential collaborators enough background information to decide if you would like to join this effort
- To introduce the ecoregional approach to Guideline development
- Begin to discuss priorities in your region to tailor the Guidelines to address those priorities; specific examples where the Guidelines will be useful
- Who else needs to be recruited in our effort? *Tribal representation*
- To answer any questions and to provide clarification



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