

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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**Range Management Advisory Committee Meeting (RMAC)****Meeting Record**

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 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:**

- UC Cooperative Extension Sonoma County – 133 Aviation Blvd, Suite 109, Santa Rosa 95403
- Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego – 11769 Waterhill Rd, Lakeside 92040

See the [Jan, 28 2025 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 Links:**

**Part 1:** <https://calfire.box.com/s/yzwb57d5j4rtvch3wlr30kiqrue17uym>

**Part 2:** <https://calfire.box.com/s/ggn52tf09fpf4h04fnn2i2mc4gucg7oq>

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**ROLL CALL****RMAC Members Present (8)**

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

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

Cole Bush – virtual only (non-voting)

Bart Cremers – in person at UCCE Sonoma County

Joel Kramer – in person at CNRA Headquarters

***A quorum was present with 8 voting members at noticed locations.***

**RMAC Members Absent (2)**

Jeremy Walker

Katie Delbar

*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.*

**Board Staff (1)**

Dr. Kristina Wolf, Environmental Scientist – in person at CNRA Headquarters

**Department Staff (1)**

Steve Fountain, Technical Support – in person at CNRA Headquarters

**Public Attendees (20)**

Theresa Bechetti, Gary Montgomery, Trevor Fox, Christian Siemer, Cindy Findley, Dawn Muschetto, Dr. Larry Ford, Noah Lopez, Alexandra Rosada, Gianni Muschetto, Ziani Paiz, Loretta Moreno, Michael Garabedian, Dabid Garcia, Lynette Martynse, Matthew Jon Britten, Megan Ellis, Anna Mariscal, Madison Muschetto, and Sam Ericksen

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**AGENDA ITEMS and MEETING RECORD:**

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

***Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 00:04:19*****1. Call to Order, Webinar Meeting Format, and Roll Call – Dr. Wolf, Board staff**

Dr. Wolf called the meeting to order, called the role, and reviewed the webinar format.

***Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 00:07:09*****2. Staff/Chairman's report – Dr. Marc Horney, Chair**

Chair Horney: Edits to SGGLMM will be covered later.

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

- As reported at last meeting, we decided to move on without the California Licensed Forester's Association (CLFA) and California Forester's Association (CFA) as the main partners. At the last meeting, Members Criley and Walker volunteered to join this action team to work with Kristina on developing this workshop/training this year. They were unable to find a time to meet, but would like to discuss this now, in terms of next steps. Joel Kramer has joined this team. Kristina joined the last two meetings of the Blue and Valley Oak Working Group meetings. There was a strong interest from Matt Allshouse/Audubon in partnering with the RMAC. He offered their location at Bobcat Ranch for the workshop. East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) had also previously indicated interest in sponsoring the location for the workshop. Alameda or Contra Costa Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) previously indicated interest as well.
- As an aside, Member Ross brought up about the policy surrounding hard woods regarding to cattle. Wanting to clarifying what hardwoods are.

**b. CA RCD Conference – RMAC presentation/symposium/panel?**

Perhaps the RMAC to present something at the CA Resource Conservation District. Possibly have RCD conference in November. Consider for next year. There was unanimous agreement for next year.

### c. Rustici Symposium

Chair Horney will not be at the symposium. Kristina will be there possibly with a poster about prescribed grazing. Patrick Wright will be there talking about SB 675.

### d. Prescribed Grazing Resources List

At last meeting we discussed getting this disseminated out to other range orgs and posted on the Society for Rangeland Management (SRM) Range Flash. Vice-Chair Dr. Larson and Chair Dr. Horney will get a list to Dr. Wolf, and will have a meeting about it soon.

### e. Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee

Dr. Wolf and Member Bush were going to provide a presentation to this state advisory committee on prescribed grazing, but it was pushed to the April meeting.

### ***Approximate Time Stamp 00:17:31***

#### **3. Approval of Meeting Minutes –Dr. Wolf, Board staff**

September 2024 is not yet not finished due to issues with the recording, but November 2024 was provided to members for review. There was unanimous approval of November 2024 minutes. These will be posted on the RMAC webpage.

#### **Materials**

[November 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes FINAL](#)

### ***Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 00:20:09***

#### **4. Expiring Member Terms and New Member Nomination(s): Discussion and recommendations for appointment(s) to the RMAC –Dr. Wolf, Board staff (15 min)**

- Two seats remain open as of today, as Member Soares will be stepping down after today; both required a nomination by an organization representing rangeland landowners. Mark Gutierrez was nominated by the California Wool Growers Association (CWGA), and Noah Lopez by the California Cattlemen’s Association (CCA). Members can vote on advancing the nomination.
- Member Ross motioned to advance the nominations. Member Larson seconded the motion. Unanimous vote, and motion passed. These appointment recommendations will be forwarded to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) for review at its next meeting.

#### **Materials**

- [4. Mark Gutierrez Nomination Form Redacted](#)
- [4. Mark Gutierrez Resume Redacted](#)
- [4. Mark Gutierrez RMAC Letter of Interest](#)
- [4. N.J Lopez RMAC Letter of Interest Redacted](#)
- [4. N.J Lopez RMAC Resume Redacted](#)
- [4. NJ Lopez Nomination Form Redacted](#)
- [4. RMAC Call for Nominations](#)
- [4. RMAC Membership Terms](#)
- [4. RMAC Nomination Blank](#)

### ***Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 00:23:11***

**5. 2025 Appointment of RMAC Chair and Vice-Chair – Chair Dr. Horney and Vice-Chair Dr. Stephanie Larson, U.C. Cooperative Extension (20 min)**

- Member Kramer nominated Member Bush for the position of Chair. Member Ross nominated Member Horney to continue serving another term as Chair. Member Bush, who is non-voting, added that Member Dr. Larson would be a strong candidate to move from Vice-Chair to Chair. At that point, there were nominations for both member Bush and current Chair Horney to serve as Chair. Chair Horney accepted the nomination, while Member Bush declined. Member Kramer then nominated Vice-Chair Dr. Larson for the position of Chair. Vice-Chair Dr. Larson was open to serving as either Chair or Vice-Chair. Member Bush suggested the possibility of appointing Co-Chairs.
- Dr. Wolf clarified that, according to the RMAC code, the committee must have a designated Vice-Chair. A motion was made to recommend current Chair Dr. Horney be re-instated as Chair, and Member Starrs seconded this motion. However, the motion was nullified. A new motion was introduced to vote between Chair Dr. Horney and Vice-Chair Dr. Larson for the position of Chair simultaneously. Member Ross made the motion, which was seconded by Member Kramer.
- During the vote, Member Ross voted for Chair Dr. Horney, Member Kramer voted for Dr. Larson, Member Starrs voted for Dr. Horney, Member Cremers voted for Dr. Horney, Member Criley voted for Dr. Larson, Dr. Larson voted for Dr. Horney, and Dr. Horney voted for Dr. Larson. The final tally was 4 votes for Dr. Horney and 3 votes for Dr. Larson, resulting in Dr. Horney being selected as Chair. This appointment will be forwarded to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) for review at its next meeting.
- Dr. Larson was nominated for the position of Vice-Chair, and the vote was unanimous in favor. This appointment will be forwarded to the Board for review at its next meeting.

***Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 00:40:38***

**6. California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Noxious Weeds Program: Partnering with the RMAC – Trevor Fox, Senior Environmental Scientist, CDFA Noxious Weeds Program (30 min)**

The Weed Management Area (WMA) Grant Program was recently launched and is advised by an 11-member advisory group, which is currently in the process of being assembled. It was specifically noted that there should be coordination with RMAC. Trevor expressed interest in attending future RMAC meetings and contributing to potential collaborations. The grant program is now live, with applications due by February 28th. It offers \$40,000 per year for a three-year period, with the goal of awarding grants to eligible parties. This program is separate from county noxious weed funds, and WMA projects must not overlap with those funds. Projects must focus on controlling and/or mapping invasive weeds. WMA grant recipients will be responsible for submitting progress and final reports. Priority will be given to projects targeting CDFA-classified weeds—A, B, C, or Q. RMAC members are encouraged to attend the board meeting to provide input on overlapping issues. Member Kramer stated that he would share this opportunity with the RCD network.

**Materials**

[6. CDFA WMA Presentation](#)

***Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 01:12:09***

**7. New Rangeland Research Lab at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo: Geospatial Systems Lab Demo** – Madison Muschetto and Sam Ericksen, graduate students, *Cal Poly San Luis Obispo* (20 min)

A new research lab has been established at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (SLO), focused on advancing environmental research through remote sensing technologies. The lab is utilizing LiDAR mapping to display the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) and color scans of a ranch near the campus. The purpose of the lab is to use remote sensing to support multidisciplinary research in areas such as fire fuel analysis, ecosystem composition, and more. Due to the compact size of the scanning device, it is possible to conduct multiple (multi-temporal) scans of a given area over time. Active research projects include analyzing understory metrics by comparing drone-based LiDAR, aerial photogrammetry, and deep learning-based 3D reconstruction techniques. Currently, the lab is funded for wildfire-related research. Students from 26 different majors across Cal Poly SLO are actively participating in the lab's projects.

**Materials**

- [7. Cal Poly SLO Geospatial Lab Presentation](#)
- [7. Presentation Slide 2 Video](#)
- [7. Presentation Slide 8 Video](#)
- [7. Presentation Slide 10 Video](#)

**Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 01:43:12**

**8. State Lands Grazing License & Land Management (SLGLLM) sub-Committee Deliverables** – Dr. Larry Ford, *Rangeland Conservation Science* and Member Bart Cremers, *Wildlands* (20 min)

- Dr. Ford and Member Cremers provided a summary of the changes made to the document and fielded questions. There was discussion about securing funding to hire an editor for the documents. Member Cremers noted that the document has already gone through a public comment period, a review by RMAC, and a review by the Department of General Services (DGS). All received comments were incorporated into the current draft. Member Ross pointed out that the document does not differentiate between a lease, permit, agreement, or license. DGS has approved the current form of the documents. It is estimated that about 15 hours would be needed to review the documents and incorporate them into the department's template. The proposed process would involve hiring an editor first, then sending the documents back to DGS, and finally presenting them to RMAC. There was discussion about suggested edits from the editor and logistical considerations regarding who would be hired. Questions were raised about whether the editor would need to be contracted through a formal bid process due to potential conflict of interest, and it was suggested that legal counsel be consulted to clarify the process for hiring an external editor.
- Dr. Horney asked RMAC members if they would support hiring an editor. However, Members Starrs and Cramer expressed that they would prefer to publish the document in its current form, as it has already been reviewed by DGS, and felt there was no need for an external editor. Dr. Ford introduced the idea of the document being used for purposes beyond state use. Dr. Wolf clarified that while the document is primarily intended for state use, it is designed to be flexible enough for use by other entities. Chair Dr. Horney will bring up the possibility of funding for an editor at the upcoming CALPAC meeting, should the

need arise in the future. Member Starrs suggested establishing a submission date to help move the process forward. The goal is to approve the document at the next meeting and bring it before the Board for a vote.

### **Materials**

- [8. SGLLLM Grazing Agreement Revised for Public Comment DRAFT - TC](#)
- [8. SGLLLM Grazing Agreement Revised for Public Comment DRAFT - Clean](#)
- [8. SLGLLM 01 Guide DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT 11-2024](#)
- [8. SLGLLM 02 Grazing Agreement DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT 11-2024](#)
- [8. SLGLLM 03 Management Action Plan DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT 11-2024](#)
- [8. SLGLLM Guidebook Revised for Public Comment DRAFT - Clean](#)
- [8. SLGLLM Guidebook Revised for Public Comment DRAFT - TC](#)
- [8. SLGLLM MAP Revised for Public Comment DRAFT - Clean](#)
- [8. SLGLLM MAP Revised for Public Comment DRAFT - TC](#)

### ***Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 02:32:23***

#### **9. Planning for Implementation of SB 675 (2023) Prescribed grazing: local assistance grant program: Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force – RMAC Members Cole Bush, Cremers, and Dr. Larson (30 min)**

- Member Bush also shared that the draft on prescribed herbivory for inclusion in the Wildfire and Resilience Task Force (Task Force) Strategic Action Plan Update is in its final review stage and that RMAC will have the opportunity to review it before it is submitted to Patrick Wright at the Task Force. The current draft serves as the deliverable, and the guidelines must be approved by July.
- For production of local/regional grazing guidance, Member Bush volunteered to represent the San Diego region, Vice-Chair Dr. Larson will cover Northern California, Member Dr. Starrs will take the Eastern Sierra region, and Member Cremers will focus on Central California. Member Bush also plans to meet with Senator Limón (responsible for the bill) to discuss collaboration. However, the Chair expressed uncertainty about whether this is advisable and noted that legal counsel must be consulted for clarification.

### **Materials**

[9. SB 675 Background & Implementation Timeline & Process](#)

### ***Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 02:48:40***

#### **10. Finalized 2024 Annual Report and Workplan and 2025 Annual Priorities – Chair Dr. Horney, Board Staff Dr. Wolf, and RMAC Members**

- Priority for CDFA to increase workshops for the Healthy Soils Program. Increase involvement in rangeland programs. No changes were brought forward.
- Vote to approve annual report. Member Starrs motioned to approve the document, and Member Bush seconded the motion; a members voted yes, except Dr. Larson who was out of the room. To be brought forward before the Board at its next meeting. Members Cremers and Bush are working on a presentation for March. Post-fire vegetative management brought forward as a topic from Member Bush.

## **Materials**

- [10. 2024 RMAC Annual Report and Workplan DRAFT - Clean](#)
- [10. 2024 RMAC Annual Report and Workplan DRAFT - TC](#)

### ***Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 03:00:34***

#### **11. Annual Educational Workshop Series Planning 2025 –Dr. Wolf, Board staff**

Dr. Wolf reported that she received no feedback on the poll she sent out. Member Cremers suggested the possibility of equipment demonstrations for practitioners, such as no-till drills. Member Bush introduced emergent topics for consideration, including post-fire grazing and opportunities to collaborate with educational entities. Members may potentially co-lead this effort with Dr. Wolf. Post-prescribed burn grazing was specifically mentioned as a key topic, and Member Bush has a demonstration site available for this purpose.

### ***Approximate Time Stamp, Part 2 – 00:00:11***

#### **12. Updates and Next Steps: Prescribed Herbivory Deliverables – Member Cole Bush, Shepherdess Land & Livestock**

Member Bush provided an update on status; to determine next steps, roles, timeline on the Prescribed Herbivory White Paper Update.

### ***Approximate Time Stamp, Part 2 – 00:04:11***

#### **13. Updates from Partner Organizations & Public Forum**

- Member Kramer reported that the RCD Healthy Soils Program has been awarded grants. There are upcoming collaborative events with Audubon, including a tour.
- Member Bush announced a wage increase for sheep herders. The H-2A herder wage is now defined as \$5,800 per month, representing a significant increase. This change may financially strain many herders unless operations are restructured. The committee also discussed the challenge of how to recruit and retain labor for wool growers under these new conditions.
- Dr. Wolf attended the Valley and Blue Oak Woodlands Working Group meeting, where she established valuable connections for future woodland training opportunities. A document regarding natural and working land carbon is expected to be released for public comment soon.

### ***Approximate Time Stamp, Part 2 – 00:15:25***

#### **14. Announcements, next meeting date, agenda items**

March 26<sup>th</sup> will be the next meeting date at 12:30 PM with the primary location in Sacramento, CA. Locations and agenda items for next meeting were discussed.

### ***Approximate Time Stamp, Part 1 – 00:19:09***

#### **15. Adjourn**