

# PRESCRIBED HERBIVORY ON CA DEPT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE LANDS

NEW Section 685, Title 14, CCR



#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

September 24, 2024 | Michelle Selmon Lands Program Manager/Wildlife Branch

## Logistics and Opening Remarks

#### Welcome!

- The purpose of this public hearing is to receive comments on the Department's proposal to add a new regulation, Section 685, to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.
- Written and oral comments can be received at this hearing, however, CDFW is not obligated to respond to comments during this hearing. Responses to clarifying questions will be provided.
- Complete responses to comments will be included in the Final Statement of Reasons, at a later date.
- The hearing will conclude at 2:00 p.m.
- This hearing will be recorded.



#### **Zoom Platform Orientation**

- Attendees are automatically muted upon entry to meeting.
- The Zoom navigation bar is at the bottom of the screen.
- Attendees: please wait until after the presentation to ask questions or make a comment. Questions or comments can be written via the chat function, or given orally via the "unmute" function.
- If live captioning is needed, please use the navigation bar and select "Show Captions".



- Purpose/Need for the Proposed Regulation
  - Clarifies authority to use **service contracts** for targeted grazing projects
  - Clarifies ability to use goats and sheep, in addition to cows
    - What is the benefit to CDFW?
    - What is the benefit to possible grazers?

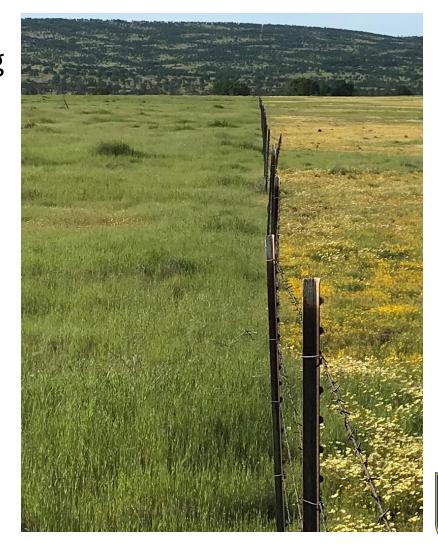






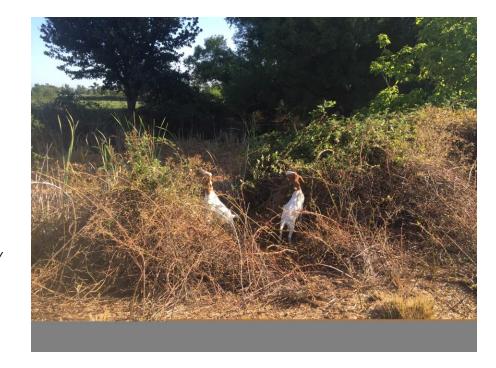
- How will prescribed herbivory/targeted grazing be used?
  - Wildfire fuels reduction projects
  - Restoration of native species







- Where will prescribed herbivory/targeted grazing with goat and sheep be used on CDFW lands?
  - Properties where cattle and mechanical means aren't the best options
    - Infrastructure needs
    - Habitat type/ sensitivity
    - Vegetation to be removed
      - Sheep tend to eat forbs such as clovers, dandelions and other broad leaf plants.
      - **Goats** tend to eat shrubs and to a lesser extent forbs and grass. While goats may be more effective at removing small (<1in) woody material, cattle are more effective at removing grassy fuel
      - Goats and sheep have ability to clear dense vegetation in hardto-reach areas
      - Will eat vegetation that cows won't eat
      - Grazing overall has reduced air quality impacts compared to mechanical means of vegetation removal





- How might prescribed herbivory impact native plants and animals on the properties to be grazed?
  - Intent to increase biodiversity and benefit native species
  - Avoidance measures will be implemented to protect nesting birds and other sensitive species
    - Timing
    - Exclusion zones
    - Monitoring pre- and post-grazing





- When will the new regulation take effect, and how will the it be implemented?
  - If approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), this new regulation will take effect January 1, 2025
  - CDFW Lands Program will provide guidance to Regions
  - Standard service agreement process will be used
- Contact your local CDFW office to inquire about prescribed herbivory opportunities



## Questions | Contact

Michelle Selmon

**CDFW Lands Program Manager** 

michelle.selmon@wildlife.ca.gov

916-704-3215



