



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".



Section 685 - Prescribed Herbivory

- 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?



Section 685 - Prescribed Herbivory

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



Section 685 - Prescribed Herbivory

- 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 hard-to-reach areas
 - Will eat vegetation that cows won't eat
 - Grazing overall has reduced air quality impacts compared to mechanical means of vegetation removal



Section 685 - Prescribed Herbivory

- 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



Section 685 - Prescribed Herbivory

- 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

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