



Guiding Principles

*Created Fall 2011
Revised December 2011*

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Background

The California Rangeland Conservation Coalition Steering Committee is responsible for the creation and updating of the Guiding Principles. In the fall of 2011, the Committee undertook an extensive process to take the minimal structure documents that had been created in the first seven years of the coalition and formalizes them to what you find in this document. The Guiding Principles are a “living document” and will evolve as the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition evolves.

Contact

If you have questions or comments on the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition Guiding Principles please contact Tracy Schohr at (530)868-6626 or tracy@carangeland.org.

Structure

- I. **Signatories:** The California Rangeland Conservation Coalition (Rangeland Coalition) is comprised of signatories to the California Rangeland Resolution.
- II. **Rangeland Coalition Steering Committee:** The Steering Committee is responsible for maintaining commitment and support to achieve the goals of the Rangeland Resolution. The Steering Committee sets the priorities of the Rangeland Coalition. This committee directs Rangeland Coalition activities on a consensus basis, ensuring that signatories either support the activity or have a neutral stance.

The committee should be comprised of a broad spectrum of representatives from public entities, organizations, and institutions vested in rangeland conservation within the geographic area of the California Rangeland Resolution. In addition, the committee shall also include ranchers.

- Organizations/Public Entities that serve on the Steering Committee shall appoint one representative to the Committee, along with one back-up representative, who will attend if the lead representative is unable to attend. The following permanent seats are allocated to the founding and funding

entities until such time that the identified organization relinquishes their seat:

- California Cattlemen’s Association
 - Defenders of Wildlife
 - California Farm Bureau
 - Audubon California
 - California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
 - The Nature Conservancy
 - U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - U. S. Natural Resource Conservation Service
 - California Department of Fish and Game
 - Institute for Ecological Health
 - California Rangeland Trust
 - University of California Cooperative Extension
 - Environmental Defense Fund
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- 5 seats are reserved for California ranchers, 3 that are appointed by the President of the California Cattlemen’s Association, and geographically representative of the Focus Area. The 4th seat shall be appointed by the President of the California WoolGrowers Association. The 5th seat shall be appointed by the California Farm Bureau Federation.
 - 2 - annual, rotating seats will be allocated to CRCC “signatories” not represented by the aforementioned founding and funding membership. The seats will be filled through an annual call to solicit interested signatories to sit on the committee and the Steering Committee will select in November those entities to serve.
 - The Steering Committee shall include the chairperson of all Rangeland Coalition Committees. The Chairperson may, and are encouraged to be, the representatives of the founding and funding entities or rancher representatives.
 - Working group chairs or designated members will be asked to attend Steering Committee meetings to provide updates on working group activities.
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- The Steering Committee will have a Chair and a Vice-chair. The Chair position shall serve for one-year. The Vice-chair shall serve for two years (one year as vice-chair and one year as chair). The Steering Committee will vote for the Chair and Vice-chair at the November Steering Committee

meeting. If a chair or vice chair is unable to fulfill the term, the Steering Committee shall vote to refill the position(s) at the next committee meeting.

- The Non-governmental organization members will be the official voting members of the Committee. The government agencies will act in an “ex-officio” capacity.
- The Steering Committee shall take action by consensus. Consensus is defined as any action taken by the Steering Committee by affirmation or unanimous consent for which no dispute has been presented. In the event that there is a dispute, the Steering Committee commits to work together to address concerns presented. If consensus is not reached, action will not be taken by the Committee on the matter.
- In a case if there is an objection to an idea or proposal by Steering committee members, the letter will be tabled until an understanding has been reached, allowing the Resolution signatories to have a neutral or supporting stance. If this is unattainable, the idea will be tabled indefinitely.
- The Steering Committee shall meet on a bimonthly basis at a minimum. Additional meetings will be held at the request of the Committee. The Steering Committee shall meet annually to discuss priorities and the Strategic Plan at the February meeting. The November meeting shall include elected of leadership positions and approval of rotating seat positions on the Committee.
- Steering Committee meetings are open to all signatories of the California Rangeland Resolution. For logistical purposes, signatories wishing to attend should contact Rangeland Coalition staff.

III. Individual Committees: Committees and working groups are established, dissolved and merged by the steering committee.

Rangeland Coalition signatories may self-select to serve on committees. Individual committees may open their membership to non-resolution signatories. Committee chairs will serve for a one-year period, must represent a signatory of the resolution and agree to serve as a member of the Steering Committee. Each committee should select a Chair and a Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair are responsible for carrying out committee objectives, working closely with Rangeland Coalition staff, and reporting to the Steering Committee. It is a goal to have each vice chair be a rancher.

Working Groups are ad-hoc in nature and are established by the Steering Committee and are designed to focus on specific issues that are occurring on a short timeframe. The Steering Committee shall identify a chairman of the ad-hoc committees. Ad-hoc committees members and staff representatives should provide reports at Steering Committee meetings.

Committee Descriptions and Leadership

- I. Steering Committee:** The committee oversees the work of the Coalition, serving as the core. The steering committee will also be responsible for internal communication and planning for the long term success of the Coalition. In addition, members will provide oversight and direction to the Directors, whom are tasked with carrying out the Coalition goals.
 - Chair: Chet Vogt
 - Vice Chair:
 - Staff Contact: Pelayo Alvarez

- II. Administrative Committee:** The committee will oversee the Rangeland Coalition staff and includes representative of the staff funders and steering committee members.
 - Billy Gatlin, California Cattlemen’s Association
 - Kim Delfino, Defenders of Wildlife
 - Jon Gustafson, Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Carrie Thompson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- III. Policy Committee:** The committee works on federal and state issues that are critical to the long term success of the underlying principles of the Coalition. The committee supports cooperative goals that will financially assist and encourage voluntary conservation on private lands, in addition to preserving the longevity of the ranching industry. Priorities are centralized on the area defined within the resolution and goals specified within the Coalition’s action items.
 - Chair: Mark Kramer, The Nature Conservancy
 - Vice Chair: Kevin Kester, rancher
 - Staff Contact: Tracy Schohr

- IV. Outreach Committee:** The committee is responsible for the creation and implementation of an annual outreach plan for the Coalition that is focus on internal and external activities.
 - Chair: Mark Rockwell, The Endangered Species Coalition
 - Vice Chair: Mel Thompson, rancher

- Staff Contact: Pelayo Alvarez

V. Local Working Group Committee: The local working group will help pilot the establishment of a Rangeland Coalition at the local level.

- Shasta County – Sheli Wingo, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Staff Contact – Tracy Schohr

VI. Interagency Coordination Committee: The committee will work to improve coordination between state and federal agencies. Specifically, on efforts to reduce the burden of obtaining state and federal permits of the implementation of voluntary restoration and habitat improvement projects. Additionally, the committee will work facilitate collaborative initiatives between multiple agencies such as cost-share positions or to complete voluntary conservation projects.

- Chair: Tom Moore, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Vice Chair: Karen Sweet, rancher
- Vice Chair: Karen Buhr, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
- Staff Contact – Tracy Schohr

VII. Summit Committee: The Summit Committee shall work with signatories to establish the annual gathering program, select venue and solicit sponsors, working closely with Rangeland Coalition staff.

- Chair: Shelia Barry, University of California Cooperative Extension
- Vice Chair: Karen Sweet, rancher
- Staff Contact: Tracy Schohr

VIII. State Lands Grazing Committee: The State Lands Grazing Committee shall work with interested land management agencies on the creation and implementation of managed grazing programs to improve public lands.

- Chair: Noelle Cremers, California Farm Bureau Federation
- Vice Chair: Kyle Wolfe, rancher
- Staff Contact: Tracy Schohr

IX. Science/Technical Committee: The Research Committee is to provide technical support services to agencies, answer rangeland species/management questions and share current rangeland research with staff to distribute through the coalition.

- Chair: Jon Gustafson, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Vice Chair: Darrell Sweet, rancher
- Staff Contact: Pelayo Alvarez

X. Working Groups

- USFWS Easement Pilot Project
 - Chair: Mark Kramer, The Nature Conservancy
 - Staff Contact: Pelayo Alvarez
- Ecosystem Markets:
 - Chair: Karen Buhr, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
 - Staff Contact: Pelayo Alvarez

CRCC Staff: The Rangeland Coalition Directors are responsible for carrying out the direction of the Rangeland Coalition Steering Committee, including participation in committees, facilitation of meetings, and the completions of goals. Additionally, Coalition Directors work to implement priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan and objectives listed in the Rangeland Resolution.

Coalition Principles

- I. **Coalition Representation:** Those who are signatories to the California Rangeland Resolution are a part of the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition (Coalition). Signatories of the principals outlined in the California Rangeland Resolution are encouraged to share with others the goals, objectives and activities of the coalition. However, no individual signatory or staff is to say the Coalition has taken an official position of support, opposition or endorsement on any matter unless the Coalition Steering Committee has formally taken a position on the matter or an advocacy letter has been written (see below). If a formal position is taken it shall be documented and posted on the Rangeland Coalition Web site.
- II. **Logo Usage:** The Coalition logo will only be utilized for promotion of Coalition projects. The Coalition logo use has blanket approval for inclusion in official Rangeland Coalition business (e.g. staff presentations, promoting rangeland tours staff are facilitating, committee/working group meetings and the Summit). Additional use of the logo, including printings of educational/outreach materials, cooperative events and reports shall be approved by the Steering Committee.
- III. **Letterhead Usage:** The Coalition letterhead will be utilized for general correspondence and advocacy letters. General correspondence includes, but is not limited to, thank you letters, meeting invitations, announcements and requests to sign onto the California Rangeland Resolution. These letters will be coordinated and sent by the Rangeland Directors. The contact person and signatory on general correspondence will be one more staff.
- IV. **Advocacy Letters:** The Coalition advocacy letters will be sent regarding issues pertinent to the Coalition, aligning with the priorities outlined in the California

Rangeland Resolution and Strategic Plan. These types of letters may be initiated by individual representatives or committees. If individual Coalition representatives bring a letter concept forward, they are responsible for initially drafting the letter and providing background information and assistance to Coalition staff to complete the letter. Coalition Directors are responsible for circulating the letter for approval, garnering signatories and making edits as agreed to by signatories. The staff will make the final edits and send the letter to the designated individual(s). Final signed letters will be posted at www.carangeland.org.

Signatories to Coalition advocacy letters must be signatory to the California Rangeland Resolution.

Signatories must respond affirmatively to the final draft of a letter to be included as a signatory on the letter. Signatures on advocacy letters will include contact name, title, organization and electronic signature (if one is provided).

It is recognized that some signatories, including agencies and non-governmental signatories, cannot advocate directly due to internal policies, even though they generally support the Coalition. These signatories will be made aware of advocacy letters, but are not required or expected to be a signatory on the letter.

Generally, notices to sign onto letters will be provided by e-mail with a turnaround time of at least ten (10) days. However, there may be certain instances when this timeframe may be unfeasible given the fast pace of the legislative process, and therefore may be shortened.

If a signatory objects to a proposed Coalition advocacy letter within the proposed signatory turnaround time, the letter will be tabled until an understanding has been reached, allowing the signatory to have a neutral or supporting stance. If this is unattainable, the advocacy letter will be tabled indefinitely.

- V. **Project Support Letters:** The Coalition Steering Committee will approve project letters of support meeting the minimum criteria listed below and on a consensus basis.

Minimum Requirements:

- Located within the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition focus area
- Conducted on private lands
- Rancher grazes project site/property
- Project lead is signatory to the California Rangeland Resolution
- Project has environmental benefits (water, air, species, etc.)
- Voluntary participation on the part of landowner

These types of letters may be initiated by individual representatives or committees. If individual Coalition representatives are seeking a project letter of support they are responsible for initially drafting the letter and providing background information and assistance to Coalition staff to complete the letter. Coalition Directors are responsible for circulating the letter for approval from the Steering Committee and, if appropriate, other Committees. The staff will make the final edits and send the letter to the designated individual(s) with one or more staff signatures. Final letters will be posted at www.carangeland.org.

Signatories seeking project support letters must be signatory to the California Rangeland Resolution.

Generally, notices to support letters will be provided by e-mail with a turnaround time of at least ten (10) days. However, there may be certain instances when this timeframe may be unfeasible given the short timeframe, but in limited instances it may be shortened.

If a Committee member objects to a proposed Coalition advocacy letter within the proposed signatory turnaround time, the letter will be tabled until an understanding has been reached, allowing the signatory to have a neutral or supporting stance. If this is unattainable, the support letter will be tabled indefinitely.