

SUMMARY

SB 675 (Limón) would institutionalize support for prescribed grazing as a nature-based wildfire solution by integrating prescribed grazing outreach, infrastructure, and local and regional planning within existing wildfire prevention grant programs.

The bill would also direct the state's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force to develop a plan to expand the use of prescribed grazing near communities.

BACKGROUND

Wildfires have impacted over [9 million acres](#) of California land in the past 5 years. These incidents harm and threaten the lives of millions of people, destroy valuable ecological resources, inundate the state with hazardous smoke, and account for [billions of dollars](#) of damage each year. In recent years, these fires have been the second highest emitter of greenhouse gasses in the state. It is essential that we invest in the full range of tools available to rapidly build and maintain fire resilient landscapes.

Prescribed grazing is a versatile and ecologically-based wildfire mitigation strategy with scientifically proven [co-benefits](#) including soil health and carbon sequestration, native plant and habitat restoration, and the production of local food and fiber. Prescribed grazing is also a safer, more climate-friendly alternative to herbicides and fossil fuel powered mechanical vegetation management. Finally, prescribed grazing complements prescribed and cultural fire by reducing fuel loads before controlled burns, maintaining fuel loads in between controlled burns, and/or being implemented in areas where prescribed fire is considered too risky or not

appropriate for the ecosystem (e.g. near communities, or areas that burn too frequently). Despite these advantages, support for prescribed grazing has been inconsistent and insufficient within existing state grant programs that promote wildfire resilience.

THIS BILL

[SB 675](#) would make three changes to improve support for prescribed grazing as an eligible wildfire mitigation strategy.

First, the bill would update CalFire's Fire Prevention Grants Program to:

1. Require CalFire to consult with the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC).
2. Increase opportunities and outreach for projects that include prescribed grazing.
3. Remove a sunset provision on advance payments and clarify that prescribed grazing infrastructure is eligible for advanced payments.

Second, the bill updates the Department of Conservation's Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program to:

1. Make the development and implementation of local and regional prescribed grazing plans eligible for funding.
2. Require the Department to develop guidance for these plans in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Range Management Advisory Committee, and UC Cooperative Extension experts.

Third, the bill would direct the state Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force to:

1. Develop a strategic action plan for expanded use of prescribed grazing.
2. Expand the scope of their market strategy to include opportunities for food and fiber products from prescribed grazing.

SUPPORT LIST

California Climate and Agriculture Network
(sponsor)
Community Environmental Council
Fibershed
Channel Islands Restoration

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