

Request for Qualifications

LandSmart Community Grazing

Introduction/Purpose

The Gold Ridge and Sonoma RCDs (RCDs) are seeking qualified professional livestock operators (Grazer) to provide statements of their qualifications to utilize grazing to reduce fuel load and make our communities safer in the face of wildfires. Priority will be given to priority areas outlined in this opportunity including:

- Guerneville/Camp Meeker/Occidental area, Mark West and the Tubbs and Glass Fire corridors, Sonoma Valley (including Mayacama Ridge, Sonoma Mountain/Bennett Ridge, and adjoining communities) and Timber Cove/Sea Ranch area to Cazadero.
- Groups of neighbors who are working together with 3 or more parcels and are in:
 - High-fire risk areas to the northeast of developed communities
 - Defensible space within 100 feet of homes in densely populated areas that are oriented in a west and/or south direction and are within canyons that border the east and west of the populated area.
 - Areas that burned in recent fires and/or have high fire return interval.
 - Boundary areas between large public and private lands and dense developments
 - Areas surrounding primary evacuation routes and key infrastructure.
 - Area deemed high risk by the Wildfire Fuel Mapper.

Background and Description

RCDs are local public organizations that support voluntary and scientifically sound natural resource stewardship. RCDs provide technical and educational assistance to property owners/managers and other stakeholders to identify and achieve their natural resource and land management goals. Since the late 1930s, RCDs throughout the State of California have worked within their communities to facilitate productive landscapes and thriving natural systems.

The Gold Ridge and Sonoma Resource Conservation Districts provides free, non-discriminatory assistance and educational opportunities to agricultural producers, land users, educators, and anyone with land-based resource conservation needs, on a strictly voluntary basis.

- Visit Gold Ridge's website to learn more: <http://goldridgercd.org/htm/mission.htm>
- Visit Sonoma's website to learn more: <https://sonomarc.org/about/>

Eligible Land participants include, but are not limited to, managers of properties:

- 4-20 acres for single properties, 4-100+ contiguous acres for multiple properties
- grassland, woodland, shrubland, agricultural lands (orchards, vineyards, etc.)
- [at high risk of wildfire](#)
- in close proximity to [at-risk, disadvantaged](#) or densely populated communities
- adjacent to key community evacuation routes or key infrastructure
- in an urban area or between urban and open space land

Program services include

For Land Participants

- If approved, get matched with a professional contract grazer and RCD technical assistant
- Establish vegetation management goals
- Prepare and graze the site
- Financial assistance to use contract grazers such as sheep or goats on your property.
- Transportation of livestock to and from site

For Contract Grazers

- Matching with appropriate land participant applicants
- Contract directly with RCD for ease of working with multiple groups and fast payment
- Small grants to acquire infrastructure needs to expand/improve services such as electric fencing, mobile corals, or portable livestock water trailers

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Goals and Expected Outcomes - We plan to target graze 65-120 acres in 3-6 communities on 6-40 parcels across the county.

We are requesting that Livestock operators develop a grazing work plan and budget based on site visits and coordination with the RCD and Participating property. Grazing work plan should consider the grazing area of interest, time frame, water needs, transportation needs, animal health, grazing area maintenance, pest management, predators, fire prevention, storage of equipment and materials, debris removal, and erosion control.

How Do I Apply?: [Statement of Qualifications](#) form will be accepted August 8th - September 1st