

(916) 445-2358

Mr. Richard C. Trudeau
General Manager
East Bay Regional Park District
11500 Skyline Boulevard
Oakland, California 94619

Dear Dick:

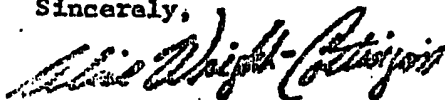
Thank you for sending the copy of your "grazing report", which deals with your grazing program in the East Bay Regional Park Units, and which may have application in the State Park System. I have requested our Natural Heritage people to review the report carefully and to prepare comments to me.

Generally, we have a different situation in relation to grazing in the State Park System than do you in the Regional Parks. Under our law, grazing is expressly forbidden as a commercial activity unless there is a clear resource management function involved. Generally, we find that grazing is inconsistent with our objectives in those units of the State Park System which have a strong dedication to the preservation of natural values for the following reasons:

1. It is impossible to contemplate the achievement of natural conditions on grasslands under grazing, since grazing by cattle tends to discourage the native species and to encourage the introduced exotics. This inescapable pattern is the factor which has produced our almost totally modified grasslands in California, where there are virtually no truly native grasslands remaining. Our management effort in a number of locations throughout the State is to achieve as close as possible a return to natural grassland conditions.
2. Where oak woodland are involved, grazing by cattle completely eliminates natural oak reproduction. The consequence, if grazing is continued over long periods, will be to eliminate the oaks from these ecosystems, as the old specimens fall out without viable reproduction.
3. As to a strong role in the reduction of fire hazards, our experience has indicated that, generally, one does not achieve a meaningful reduction in fire hazard until serious over-grazing problems are experienced.

As soon as we have completed our review of your report in our Natural Heritage staff, we will be in touch with you; I have asked Chief James Tryner of our Resource Preservation and Interpretation Division to be in touch with you to arrange for the discussions which you have suggested.

Sincerely,



Herbert Rhodes
Director

R-3/1
TURNNAME
Flyner
1-100 (8-65)

SEP 11 1970