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From: William Hart, Project Manager William@goldridgercd.org

Project Title: LandSmart Grazing Program for Community Resilience with Monte Rio Recreation and Parks District

Project Applicant: Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District

Project Location: 094-100-046, 094-110-003, 094-110-002, 095-170-020, 095-160-007, 096-060-009, 096-060-008, 096-060-007, 094-110-002, 095-170-003, 095-170-001

Project Location – City: Monte Rio

Project Location – County: Sonoma

Description of the Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The project will utilize contracted prescribed herbivory through multiple grazing events to reduce vegetation fuels and increase diversity on the participating property. Fire prevention objectives are to change the fire behavior through modification of the fuel bed, fuel loading, percent cover, and ladder fuels. Invasive species have negative effects on biodiversity and ecosystem services and interfere with meeting restoration goals. Target vegetation will include non-native species. The Project site includes a total of approximately 3.9 acres of Riparian Forest (Vancouverian Riparian Deciduous Forest Group and Southwestern North American Riparian Evergreen and Deciduous), Forest Sliver, Conifer Forest, and Developed landscape. The Project will total approximately 3.9 acres. Prescribed herbivory within the identified grazing area will occur on the property.

Before the livestock arrives on the site, a pre-grazing meeting will occur with representatives from Gold Ridge RCD, the Monte Rio Recreation and Parks District, and the contract Grazier to identify areas within the project site that need to be avoided. The contract Grazier will utilize electric fencing to secure livestock.

A mixture of prescribed herbivory and adaptive management will be employed in the project area. The livestock will graze to maintain the vegetation. Grazier is encouraged to densely pack the livestock to rigorously target the intended vegetation. Grazier is also encouraged to employ adaptive management via monitoring of the project area. Adaptive management is the process whereby management is initiated, evaluated, and refined (Holling, 1978). Monte Rio Recreation and Parks District is utilizing grazing to arrest the development of invasive, annual grass species in the project area but not cause overgrazing that results in soil erosion via water or wind. Prescribed herbivory (also known as “targeted grazing” [ASI 2006, Macon 2019]) is the use of domestic livestock to accomplish specific and measurable vegetation management objectives. Those would include things like removing biomass (fine fuel loads), reducing populations of specific plant species, and improving plant community structure for wildlife habitat values.

- Handwork in wildfire resilience projects typically refers to manual labor activities that involve the careful management and maintenance of landscapes to reduce fire risk, such as

clearing brush, creating defensible space around structures, and implementing prescribed burns. These efforts are essential for enhancing the resilience of communities and ecosystems to wildfires. Handwork is defined as the physical act by hand and on foot only, i.e., without the aid of any type of vehicle.

- Adaptive management means effectiveness or validation monitoring after application of a treatment performed to the extent feasible, recognizing fiscal constraints, the need for ongoing access to property, and staff availability.

