Responsible Wool Standard 2.0 Revision and Responsible Mohair Standard 1.0 IWG Call

Date: 1st October, 2019

Topic(s):
Land Management

Attendees
From Textile Exchange: Hanna Denes, Callie Weldon, Selvilla Granger

- Haldi Kranich-Wood - British Wool
- Ignacio Abella - SUL
- Karin Wiske – Varner
- Mackie Hobson-Mohair South Africa
- Mandy Lucas - Animal Welfare Consultant
- Matt Jacobs - Darn Tough
- Ian Wicklen - Merrythought
- Phillip Alexandrin - NSF
- Lindsay Humphreys – Mohair South Africa

Call Notes

News and Updates

Schedule: Next Call on October 29th at 3pm BST/10 am EDT. This is the review of the final draft, certification procedures, and supporting documents

Please register in advance here: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/70e7e493558c8030cde7dc3c8da9331e
### RWS and RMS Revision Workplan

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*subject to change

### RWS Revision/RMS Development Process

**Terms of Reference**
Goals, Objectives, Theory of Change
July 2019

**Issue Papers**
Identify key areas for review

**IWG Meetings**
Research and collect feedback. Present options to the IWG.

**IWG Decision-Making**
Draft RWS 2.0 and RMS 1.0

**Public Consultation**
Invite public feedback on the draft
November 2019

**Release RWS 2.0**
RMS 1.0
Request for photos of verified sites for the standard

Request for photos

- We are looking for images from certified sites to feature either in the standard, supporting documents or in other Textile Exchange publications.

- Please send photos to responsiblewool@textileexchange.org

Land Management Framework

Desired Outcomes and Principals

Soil: Desired outcomes and principles

Desired outcome: Farmers have an understanding of what will impact the health of their soil, and have a strategy to mitigate damage and improve soil health.

Principles

Soil health
- Soil health is monitored and maintained taking into account factors such as minimisation of compaction and erosion and promotion of levels of soil organic matter.

Hazardous materials
- Hazardous materials are not disposed of in a way that risks human or animal health and soil or water quality
Biodiversity: Desired outcomes and principles

**Desired outcome:** Farmers have an understanding of what will impact the biodiversity of their land, and have a strategy to protect and improve it over time.

**Principles**
- Supporting wildlife and biodiversity
  - Farm monitors and maintains biodiversity

Management of wildlife when there is conflict with livestock
- When necessary, lethal control of predators targets the animal creating the conflict and is carried out humanely

**Deforestation**
- Deforestation is prohibited

Fertilizers: Desired outcomes and principles

**Desired outcome:** Farmers use the minimum amount of inputs to meet the nutritional needs of their land to maintain their carrying capacity.

**Principles**
- Fertiliser management strategy
  - The farm has a strategy relating to optimum fertiliser needs.

- Soil testing
  - Soil nutrient levels are monitored by testing

- Choice and application of fertiliser
  - Choice of fertiliser relates to crop/land.
  - Fertilizers are applied in a manner to avoid pollution and waste.
We’ve taken the desired outcomes that were already part of the RWS standard for each module and have elaborated more on what the principals are in relation to soil health, biodiversity, fertilizers, pesticides.
Water Feedback

Water

Feedback received: Requirements addressing water resources should be added to the standard.
Proposal: Add a new requirements/section addressing water resources.
• Water resources shall be managed and conserved.
• Contamination of water sources must be prevented and special care should be taken to limit or prevent harmful effluent.

Guidance: Provide details on tools and techniques for sustainable water use

Note: The contamination requirement would overlap with fertilizer and pesticides requirements. However, these requirements are not explicitly referencing water and are only applicable to land classes 1-3 and products used or animals.

LM4.6.2 Risks from pesticide application for human and animal health or the environment shall be minimized.
LM4.6.3 Systems shall be in place to ensure that pesticides reach all targeted areas and to minimize losses to non-target areas or the atmosphere.

We received feedback that we should address water resources in the standard. This includes management and conversation as well as water quality. It is implicitly addressed in the fertilizer and pesticide requirements, but it may make more sense to have explicit requirements and more detail in the guidance.

Biodiversity: Predator Control

Biodiversity: Predator control

Responsible Wool Standard
LM2.6 Lethal control shall be minimized and done humanely.
LM2.6.1 Lethal control shall target the specific, individual animals(s) that is/are creating the conflict.
LM2.6.2 Lethal control of any animal shall result in instantaneous unconsciousness and death.
LM2.6.3 Use of poison for lethal control is prohibited.

Guidance:
The use of leghold traps and snares are prohibited.
Live trapping of specific predators engaged in predation is only permitted when all other options for livestock management and predator exclusion have been shown to be ineffective. Live traps must be managed to target the specific problem animal.
Live traps must be checked at least twice every 24 hours.

Responsible Mohair Standard
LM2.6 Lethal control shall be minimized and done humanely.
LM2.6.1 Lethal control shall target the specific, individual animals(s) that is/are creating the conflict.
LM2.6.2 Lethal control of any animal shall result in instantaneous unconsciousness and death.
LM2.6.3 Use of poison for lethal control is prohibited.

Guidance:
The use of leghold traps and snares are prohibited.
Live trapping of specific predators engaged in predation is only permitted when all other options for livestock management and predator exclusion have been shown to be ineffective. Live traps must be managed to target the specific problem animal.
Live traps must be checked at least twice every 24 hours.

We received feedback that this should be moved from the guidance and added as part of the standard. Also received feedback that sometimes traps are needed in certain areas, such as South Africa.
We’ve been speaking with animal welfare consultants regarding this and we’d like to suggest to the IWG that we consider a degradation policy for the user of soft hold traps (not the traditional steel leg hold traps).
Pesticides: Applicability

Feedback:
Feedback received focused on the applicability of fertilizer and pesticides requirements.

Proposal:
Restructure to separate the pesticide requirement into two sections: one addressing land and one addressing animals to make the standard more user friendly.

We can restructure the requirements to separate out the pesticides requirement that are applicable to everyone. We’ll have a separate pesticide requirement that are applicable to land class 1, 2, 3 so the standard is clearer.

Comment in Chat:
- Definitely a good idea to split out; as it took me several re-reads before I understood the applicability!

Standards Approach

Feedback:
- Positive feedback on the continuous improvement model.
- Land management module format is practice based rather than outcome based.
- Increase interest in regenerative agriculture and recognition of the potential for positive impact from grazing.
- Adapting the standard to fit different regions / geographies / farming systems would require a significant amount of work (and would be duplicating existing initiatives).

Proposal:
Explore investing in more dedicated resources focused on sharing of best practice, e.g., regenerative agriculture.
Investigate partnership opportunities for voluntary impact measurement (potential for using the Centralised Database System for impact data).
We’d like input on how we can better make a connection to impact even though it is a global practice based standard. Should we look at creating more resources around sharing best practice for grazing and regenerative ag? Can we partner with other initiative to capture impact measurements?

**Ecological Outcome Verification**

EOV as a Land Health Metric for RWS

- EOV is an outcome based, contextually relevant method to provide metrics to land health and ecosystem processes assessment. It has been developed and it is managed by the Savory Institute, with assistance of a scientific advisory group.
- EOV as an outcome based method works well alongside a practice based approach such as the land management module of the RWS.
- EOV measures and trends key indicators of ecosystem function, which in the aggregate indicate positive or negative trends in the overall health of a landscape.

Opportunity to explore collaboration opportunities between EOV and the RWS, e.g.:

- Audit recognition for farmers participating in EOV
- Impact measurement

This is an outcome-based method for metrics of land health and eco-systems. There is an opportunity for collaboration here.
The Hub

- **A digital space** for updates and discussion for members of the IWG (starting with RWS/RMS, expanding to other groups)

- Go-to place for resources, learning, conversation and more

- **Goals of The Hub**: a landing spot to converse with fellow IWG members, continue to stay engaged in between calls, and remain up-to-date on the revisions process.

- As a member of the IWG, you are automatically able to activate your account in The Hub. Members may already be active.

- All IWG protocol, including Chatham House Rules, apply to the digital community. The **Hub is a private space where only members can see the conversation.**

- Learn more about The Hub by watching our online training session.

The HUB is an online community space for different groups involved with Textile Exchange to connect, stay-in-touch, and receive updates about their programs of involvement. We are planning to make this space live for all IWG communities during their standard revisions process and the RWS/RMS is the first group to utilize it. Since we are quite far along in the RWS/RMS revision process, we will be soft launching this space for this group. This means we will be posting standards, revision, and IWG related documents in the HUB and starting some discussions on the homepage. In future RWS/RMS revisions and other standard revisions going forward, we are exploring implementation of helpful functions such as digital charter submission, posts for feedback on guidance proposals, ‘liking’ other members feedback points in agreement, and voting on final standard drafts.

The Hub: Getting Started

- **Login** for the first time using your email address and by creating a new password.

- Update your **profile page**. Please add your information, photo, and other relevant information to share your expertise with other users.

- **Reply** to the welcome post!
For the rest of this revision process, feel free to simply login using the instructions attached to the call summary email, chat with other IWG members, reply to posts, and complete your user profile! If you are already a member of the HUB and part of the Membership community, this new RWS/RMS IWG community will show up on your account automatically. Please email callie@textileexchange.org with any questions.

Follow up

Requests for feedback

Requests for Charters to be signed and returned

Join the IWG

Join IWG as an observer

- Notify responsiblewool@textileexchange.org.

Join IWG as a voting member.

- Sign and return the IWG Charter to responsiblewool@textileexchange.org.

Reminders for next call

The next call will take place on 29th of October at 3pm BST/10 am EDT. Joining instructions will be sent out by Textile Exchange Communications and also posted on www.responsiblewool.org.

We will revisit today’s topic and review feedback. Also look at handling and transport, optional slaughter module.

Register in advance for this meeting:

Link to register: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/70e7e493558c8030cde7dc3c8da9331e

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting, including a calendar reminder.