

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Professional Foresters Registration Program



# Licensing News

Volume 26 - Issue 1



Winter 2012

## **CURRENT PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS EXAMINING COMMITTEE COMPOSITION**

*Professional Foresters Registration shall protect the public interest through the regulation of those individuals who are licensed to practice the profession of forestry, and whose activities have an impact upon the ecology of forested landscapes and the quality of the forest environment, within the State of California.*

Mr. Douglas Ferrier, Chair – RPF (Private Consultant)  
Mr. Otto van Emmerik, Vice-Chair – RPF (Industry)  
Mr. Thomas Osipowich – RPF (CDF, Retired)  
Mr. Gerald Jensen – RPF (USFS, Retired)  
Dr. Kimberley Rodrigues – Public Representative  
Mr. Raymond Flynn – Public Representative  
Mr. William Frost – CRM (Certified Specialty Representative)

### **PROGRAM STAFF**

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## **CURRENT BOARD OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION COMPOSITION**

*The Board's mission is to lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of forest and rangelands, and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state.*

Mr. Stan L. Dixon, Chair (Public Representative)  
Vacant (Range-Livestock Industry)  
Mr. Richard Wade (Timber Industry Representative)  
Dr. Susan Britting (Public Representative)  
Dr. J. Keith Gilliss (Public Representative)  
Mr. James Ostrowski (Timber Industry Representative)  
Mr. Bruce Saito (Public Representative)  
Mr. Michael Miles (Timber Industry Representative)  
Mr. Mark Andre (Public Representative)

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# **REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS & CERTIFIED RANGELAND MANAGERS**

## **RPF and CRM Rolls**

The table below indicates the known status of all current and former registrants by license type.

<b>Status</b>	<b>RPF's</b>	<b>CRM's</b>
Valid	1232	77
Withdrawn	153	3
Revoked for Non-Renewal or by Disciplinary Action	739	7
Voluntarily Relinquished	572	8
Confirmed Deceased	250	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2946</b>	<b>98</b>

## **Welcome to New Registrants**

The following individuals passed the RPF and CRM Exams held in October 2010, April 2011, and October 2011, and were approved for registration by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Congratulations to all and welcome to the fold!

### **OCTOBER 22, 2010 EXAM**

Mr. Cameron Holmgren, RPF No. 2929                      Mr. Ryan Robert Bellanca, RPF No. 2932  
Mr. Christopher Poli, RPF No. 2930                      Mr. Brandon Rodgers, RPF No. 2933  
Mr. Robert Matthew Fecko, RPF No. 2931

### **APRIL 15, 2011 EXAM**

Mr. Jim Suero, RPF No. 2934                              Mr. Wesley Richard Solus, RPF No. 2941  
Mr. Thomas Dols, RPF No. 2935                              Mr. Eric J. Sutera, RPF No. 2942  
Mr. Henry Francisco Herrera, RPF No. 2936                              Mr. Daniel Richard Graybill, RPF No. 2943  
Mr. Jim Lewis, RPF No. 2937                              Mr. Paul Edward Chapman, RPF No. 2944  
Mr. Ray A. Haupt, RPF No. 2938                              Mr. Matthew S. McNicol, RPF No. 2945  
Mr. Caleb Vierra, RPF No. 2939                              Ms. Breanna Owens, CRM No. 97  
Mr. Jason Scott Pinkerton, RPF No. 2940

### **OCTOBER 21, 2011 EXAM**

Mr. Garrett Kleiner, RPF No. 2946                              Mr. David Haas, RPF No. 2950  
Mr. Madison Thomsen, RPF No. 2947                              Mr. Kyle Holland, RPF No. 2951  
Mr. Chris Eades, RPF No. 2948                              Mr. Alan R. Bower, CRM No. 98  
Mr. Scott R. Stephenson, RPF No. 2949

## **RPF and CRM Examination Announcements**

The Spring 2012 examination has been scheduled for April 13, 2012 and the deadline for NEW applications was February 10, 2012. The Fall 2012 examination has been scheduled for October 12, 2012 and the deadline for NEW applications is August 17, 2012. Those interested in applying for the RPF or CRM examinations are encouraged to contact the Acting Licensing Officer, George Gentry with any questions about qualifications prior to submitting an application and exam fee. George may be reached at 916-653-8007 or by email to [george.gentry@fire.ca.gov](mailto:george.gentry@fire.ca.gov).

## In Memoriam

With respect and condolences to family and friends, Professional Foresters Registration notes the passing of the following individuals since the last edition of the *News*. Please take a moment to honor their memory and service to the profession of forestry.

Mr Larry E. Ballew, RPF No. 1346  
Mr. William M. Beaty, RPF No. 584  
Mr. Jere Lynn Melo, RPF No. 349  
Mr. Robert R. Stephens, RPF No. 153  
Mr. Lee C. Wensel, RPF No. 123

Mr. Fred H. Batchelor, RPF No. 1453  
Mr. William H. Kuphalt, RPF No. 966  
Mr. Thomas E. Myall, RPF No. 59  
Mr. Michael C. Stroud, CRM No. 4, RPF No. 1501

## Lost in the Woods

The individuals listed below are currently out of touch with the licensing program. If you see your name, or can help us with contact information for somebody else on the list, please contact Wendy at 916-653-8031 or by email to [wendy.zampardi@fire.ca.gov](mailto:wendy.zampardi@fire.ca.gov). Remember, by regulation it is every registrant's responsibility to notify the licensing office within ten days of any address changes (14 CCR Section 1606, Professional Foresters Regulations).

Mr. Noel Ivar Olsen, RPF No. 429  
Mr. James W. Timmons, RPF No. 1181  
Mr. Harold F. Sebring, RPF No. 1247

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## Disciplinary Actions Report

The following disciplinary cases have been resolved as indicated since the last edition of the *News*. At this time, there is one additional case pending hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

### CASE NUMBER: 314

#### ALLEGATIONS:

It is alleged that the RPF's record of violations of Forest Practice Rules indicated a pattern and practice of unprofessional practice of forestry. The RPF received nine (9) Notices of Violation over the previous five (5) year period. The most recent Notice of Violation indicated gross mischaracterization of the slopes upon which a proposed road alignment was to be constructed under an amendment to an existing plan. The Notice of Violation also reported that the RPF failed to identify an unstable area located along this proposed road alignment. Collectively, the history of Forest Practice Rule violations supported accusations of *gross negligence, incompetence, misrepresentation, and/or material misstatement of fact* in the practice of forestry.

#### DISCIPLINE:

The RPF was notified of the accusations and offered terms of a stipulated settlement or the opportunity to defend against the action before an Administrative Law Judge. The RPF instead chose to irreversibly and voluntarily relinquish the license to practice forestry. The Case is therefore closed.

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### CASE NUMBER: 318

#### ALLEGATIONS:

It is alleged that the RPF failed to disclose, identify, and properly protect prehistoric and historic cultural sites in the course of preparing Emergency Notices for harvest of fire-damaged timber. Evidence seemed to suggest that the RPF did not perform the archaeological survey work precisely as indicated in the Emergency Notice documents.

However, the RPF responded to the concerns about site discovery, disclosure, and protection by completing site records for a number of sites not previously identified. The RPF remained cooperative throughout the investigation.

**DISCIPLINE:**

Prior to the Professional Foresters Examining Committee's determination of possible action in the matter, the RPF voluntarily relinquished the license to practice forestry. The Case is therefore closed.

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**CASE NUMBER: 320**

**ALLEGATIONS:**

It is alleged that the RPF committed *fraud* and a *material misstatement of fact* in the act of submitting a request for THP extension indicating that timber operations had commenced, but had not been completed, when timber operations had in fact not commenced.

**AUTHORITY:**

As authorized under PRC §777, the following discipline was imposed:

**DISCIPLINE:**

The Professional Foresters Examining Committee did not find the actions that precipitated the complaint against the RPF's license actionable as *fraud* or *material misstatement of fact* under the Professional Foresters Law, Public Resources Code Section 750, *et seq.* However, the PFEC did conclude that there was room for improvement of the RPF's professional performance in seeking extension of the subject Timber Harvesting Plan. As a result of this conclusion, the PFEC determined that a *Confidential Letter of Concern* pursuant to 14 CCR §1612.1(g) was an appropriate response to the complaint. The *Letter of Concern* advised that the RPF could have stated more clearly the pertinent facts of the situation leading to the request for extension of the THP. The RPF was cautioned against use of standard "boiler plate" language in plan extension requests. Further explanation of the rationale for the extension request might not have led to actual extension of the THP, but certainly would have mitigated the possibility of a licensing complaint. Case 320 is now closed.

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**CASE NUMBER: 321**

**ALLEGATIONS:**

It was alleged that unlicensed practice of forestry had occurred in relation to a number of fuel hazard reduction projects. The allegation was based upon the identification of an unlicensed individual as "Project Representative" on specified contracting documents.

**DISCIPLINE:**

Upon review of the facts, it was clear that responsible charge of the projects by one or more RPFs had been established. The respondent was exonerated of the allegation and advised to identify the RPF responsible for project oversight in all future contracting documents. Case 321 is now closed.

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**CASE NUMBER: 322**

**ALLEGATIONS:**

It was alleged that the RPF had failed to remit payment of license renewal fees since June 30, 2007, but had continued to practice and use the title of RPF. The RPF's license had in fact been revoked by the Board for nonpayment of renewal fees. The licensing office was subsequently made aware of a document bearing the RPF's name and number indicating that the RPF was effectively practicing under a revoked license. Upon contact with the RPF, it became clear that the failure to renew was entirely inadvertent and that the continued practice of forestry was not intentionally fraudulent. Contact with the RPF had been lost during changes in employment.

**DISCIPLINE:**

The RPF accepted full responsibility for the failure to renew and agreed to terms of a stipulated settlement for license reinstatement. The terms of the settlement included unconditional admission of violation of the Professional Foresters Law, payment of all delinquent fees, payment of subsequent renewal fees, notification of the licensing office of any address change within ten days, and compliance with all laws and regulations. Case 322 is now closed.

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**CASE NUMBER: 323****ALLEGATIONS:**

The complaint alleged professional failures related to the RPF's preparation of and the subsequent operations under a fuels modification and maintenance plan. Among other things, it was specifically alleged that the mastication and thinning operations under the plan resulted in the destruction of protected elderberry bushes in areas designated as "reserves" within a subdivision.

**DISCIPLINE:**

While it was acknowledged that the fuels modification work could have been less intensive and still accomplished the project objectives, there was no evidence to indicate that occurrences of elderberry had been destroyed as a result of the mastication and thinning operations. Based upon a review of the facts of the matter, correspondence from the complainant, and respondent's written response to the allegations, the PFEC determined that there was no cause for disciplinary action. The respondent was exonerated of the allegations, and Case 323 is now closed.

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**Meetings of Interest and Special Announcements****PFEC Meeting Dates for 2012**

The Committee met on February 23, 2012 and will meet again June 21, August 23, and December 13, 2012, respectively. The public is free to attend open session meetings whether in person or by teleconference. Agendas and other information may be found at: [http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/professional\\_foresters\\_registration/](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/professional_foresters_registration/).

**Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Meeting Dates for 2012**

The Board's next meeting is scheduled for March 6-7. Thereafter, the Board is tentatively scheduled to meet at the Resources Building in Sacramento on April 3-4, May 1-2, June 5-6, July 10-11, August 7-8, September 11-12, October 9-10, November 6-7, and December 4-5. The Board's Forest Practice and Resource Protection Committees meet on the first day followed by the full Board on the second day. More information on meetings may be found at: <http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/>.

**New Feature on Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Website**

A new feature on the Board's website is the option to "subscribe" to almost any item of interest from Board meeting agendas to various proposed regulations. This allows one to receive email notifications of any changes to a particular item. For instance, if a person were to subscribe to "meeting agendas," that person would receive an email alert every time a new agenda is posted on the website. Similarly, if a person subscribed to the proposed "Road Rules, 2012" item, that person would receive an email alert every time a new rule draft or other document was posted under that item.

## Forestry Division of County of Los Angeles Fire Department and Educator Diane Dealey Neill Receive 2011 Francis H. Raymond Awards

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection recognized an organization and an individual in 2011 for its highest honor, the Francis H. Raymond Award for Outstanding Contributions to California



Forestry. The Forestry Division of the Los Angeles County Fire Department was recognized on the eve of its centennial celebration for 100 years of forestry in Southern California. The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors created the County of Los Angeles Board of Forestry on May 8, 1911, and later established the Department of County Forester and Fire Warden. The Forestry Division of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, as it is known today, has continued to perform the duties it was originally assigned along with the added responsibility for review of

environmental documents related to development and protection of oak tree resources, development of vegetation management plans and proposals, coordination of wildland fire planning, enforcement of the Department's brush clearance program, and review of fuel modification plans. The Forestry Division operates five forestry units within the County providing forestry training and education to juvenile court wards at the Division's Camp 17. The Award was presented by Board Member, Bruce Saito at the Centennial formal dinner last May.

Ms. Diane Dealey Neill is the daughter of Registered Professional Forester, David Dealey and was

recognized for her tireless efforts as founder and director of the "California Forestry Challenge." The California Forestry Challenge is a field-based forestry instruction and education program for high school students offered in Santa Cruz, El Dorado, and either Shasta or Siskiyou Counties annually. The program instructs students in the fundamentals of forestry fieldwork calling upon professional foresters, biologists, and other resource professionals to serve as instructors and mentors to the students. The students are also presented with a contemporary forestry-related problem to solve in a



team format. The teams develop written and oral presentations that address the problem. The teams are later judged on their presentations. Winning teams have been featured at State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and California Licensed Foresters Association meetings. A number of the students have subsequently chosen to major in forestry and related fields in college upon graduation from high school. The Award was presented by Chairman Stan Dixon and the Members of the Board at their September meeting.

**The California Cooperative Forest Management Plan: The One-Plan Plan**  
**A Workshop for RPFs and Agency Staff (See: <http://conta.cc/A4JPaf>)**  
**March 15 (Ukiah), 20 (Redding), 21 (Eureka), 27 (Jamestown) and 29 (Auburn), 2012**

**Overview:** CALFIRE and The Natural Resource Conservation Service, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, are announcing the release of the California Cooperative Forest Management Plan. This template meets the "management plan" requirements for grant agreements and other provisions available through CALFIRE, NRCS, USFS, and the American Tree Farm Association. The Plan is required when landowners are applying for various state or federal forest improvement grants. The Proposition 40 Fuels Management Program, the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP), and conservation programs of NRCS provide cost-share funds to partially cover the costs of developing the management plan. The coordinated effort between these state, federal and NGOs helps eliminate duplication and streamlines the process for developing one plan to meet multiple personal and financial goals.

This workshop will give step-by-step instructions in use of the California Cooperative Forest Management Plan and share examples of sample plans developed using the new template. It also will provide information on grant programs to fund the cost of developing a management plan.

**Who Should Attend:** This workshop is designed for Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) and agency staff to discuss the implementation of this new template and the process for using it to develop management plans for landowners. Anyone who provides service to private forest owners should plan to attend.

**Registration:** There is no advance registration required. Simply show up at one of the five locations. There will be a working lunch, so plan to bring a brown bag lunch with you, or funds to place an order for a take-out lunch when you arrive.

**Meeting Dates and Locations:**

- March 15; Ukiah, CA; UC Cooperative Extension Office -Mendocino County, 890 N. Bush Street, Ukiah, CA 95482; Phone: (707) 463-4495
- March 20; Redding, CA; CALFIRE Headquarters, 6101 Airport Rd., Redding, CA 96002, Phone: (530) 224-1420 (Classroom 1 - north side)
- March 21; Eureka, CA; UC Cooperative Extension Office, Ag Center Building, 5630 South Broadway, Eureka, CA 95503-6998, Phone: (707) 445-7351
- March 27; Jamestown, CA; Resource Conservation District Office, 18285 Highway 108, Suites 5 & 6, Jamestown, CA 95327, Phone: (209) 984-0500
- March 29; Auburn, CA; Placer County Water Agency, 144 Ferguson Rd., Auburn, CA 95604, Phone: (530) 823-4850 (American River Room)

**Questions:** Please direct any questions about the program, the agenda or any other logistics to Stephen Smith, State Forester with NRCS at: email- [stephen.smith@ca.usda.gov](mailto:stephen.smith@ca.usda.gov); phone – (530) 792-5655.

**Agenda**

9:30 AM	Registration opens
10:00	Welcome/Introductions
10:10	Purpose of the One-Plan Template
10:20	Landowner Programs – Overview of CAL FIRE, NRCS, Local RCD, other
10:50	Getting Started, Background Information
11:30	Current Property History, Description, History, Landowner Information
12:00 PM	Working lunch (Bring lunch, or order lunch when arriving) – CAL FIRE and NRCS staff available as technical panel
1:00 PM	Landowner Objectives
1:15	Management Plan Implementation
2:00	Permits and CEQA/NEPA Compliance
2:30	Property and Plan Maps, Additional Information
3:00	Final wrap-up, questions
3:15	Adjourn

## **The View from the 15<sup>th</sup> Floor**

***"I'LL BE SEEING YOU."***

I've had two jobs since I left forestry school. I've never gotten over leaving the first one and leaving this one hasn't been any easier. My fellow registrants, it's been my privilege to serve as the licensing officer for the past nearly eight years. It is with regret for work left undone and my abysmal record for getting this publication out that I convey to you my departure from the licensing program. I trust that at least some of you will find this cause for celebration and certainly would not begrudge you for that reaction.

It was an honor to affix my signature below Board Chairman Stan Dixon's on the certificates of new registrants. Corresponding with prospective RPFs and those who support them has been an uplifting experience I will never forget, a highlight of my life really. It was a pleasure working for Chairman Doug Ferrier and the Members of the Professional Foresters Examining Committee. This program is fortunate to have such a fine group of peers who volunteer their time to look out for the integrity of the license and those who would practice forestry or rangeland management under it. Perhaps some of you will consider seeking appointment to the Committee at some future point. So too was it my good fortune to work with our expert examiner and examination graders, individuals who truly have forgotten more forestry than I will ever know.

I look forward to the new challenges of serving as the Board's Regulations Coordinator and remain thankful for the opportunity to continue my work in the interest of my fellow registrants. I hope to see more of those of you with an interest in the Board's Forest Practice "Road Rules" proposal, as review and discussion of this effort progresses into the summer. I likewise hope to see the Certified Rangeland Managers among you as the Board takes up the prospect of codifying the CRM Program Guidelines at some point this year.

It was a gift to have the chance to meet so many of you and to hear your perspectives, experiences, and advice. I took this job because I wanted to give something back to the profession that adopted a suburban kid from the fabled timberlands of Ventura County. It would seem that I have instead incurred a greater debt than could ever be repaid—a debt for which I will be eternally grateful.

I wish you all the very best and look forward to seeing you somewhere down the line.

Eric K. Huff, RPF No. 2544  
Sacramento, CA