

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS REGISTRATION

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RE: RPF/LTO Responsibilities Problem Statement

The issue of RPF/LTO Responsibilities was initially introduced and discussed during the August 12, 2014 meeting of the Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC). Representatives from Associated California Loggers (ACL), Cal Fire, and California Licensed Foresters Association (CLFA) were present for the discussion. This staff report attempts to capture the various ideas that were brought forth by members of the PFEC, public or professional organizations as potential solutions to the identified problem. The order of ideas presented in the list below does not reflect on their relative merit. This list of ideas is simply for the purpose of documenting the ideas and thoughts brought forward to aid in the development of a potential solution to eventually be brought forth to the Forest Practice Committee.

Identified Problem: Members of ACL have expressed a concern that LTOs receive unequal treatment in the issuance of violations by Cal Fire. ACL indicates that there are times in which the LTOs are receiving violations, when in fact, the RPF involved in the project may have responsibility and culpability in the actions that resulted in the violation(s). They contend that in these instances that the RPF should be the recipient of the violations in lieu of the LTO.

Potential Recommendations to the Forest Practice Committee:

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- **Make no recommendation to develop a policy or to revise regulation. This would indicate that problem has not been demonstrated to be acute or widespread.**
 - **Investigate ways to increase communications between RPF, LTO and Cal Fire. Provide comment on supporting additional discussion on the application of inspector discretion and discussion of RPF/LTO Responsibilities. (Law Enforcement or Basic Forest Practice Training.**
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- **An appeal process may be appropriate for recipients of violations.**

- **Investigate documentation of LTO/RPF meeting prior to operations to document the conveyance of Plan specific issues. Recommend to FPC to review the ACL and industry checklists to see if this could provide a framework for future documentation associated with Plans.**

- **Potentially pursue regulatory changes within either RPF or LTO responsibilities to clarify when RPF vs LTO should be a recipient of violations.**

- **Investigate ways to return to a more cooperative effort vs. enforcement.**

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.