

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Professional Foresters Registration Program



# Licensing News

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Fall 2009

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

*“So, you’re a forester...where do you work?”*

I have a friend who likes to respond to questions about his occupation by variously stating that he’s a neurosurgeon, cowboy, professional bowler, space station technician, Olympic skier, dolphin trainer, etc. I, however, have never felt the need to embellish upon my career choice because telling someone that you’re a forester is usually enough to elicit all kinds of interest and questions about what foresters do for a living.

So, where do most of us work these days? Charll Stoneman, immediate past President of the California Licensed Foresters Association (CLFA) prompted me to begin an employment survey during the odd-numbered renewal period this year. The survey will be completed with the even-numbered registrants in the 2010 renewal period. The results of the first half of the brief survey are included in this edition of the *News*. Not surprisingly, most of us RPFs appear to be working in some aspect of commercial forestry whether in private industry, consulting, or forest practice enforcement.

Of course, I will continue to talk up the varied roles for RPFs in this state because we are needed in a variety of settings. And, I firmly believe that the license is a demonstration of one’s professional qualifications, regardless of employment. But, it is undeniable that commercial forestry is the reason the licensing program came to be and remains in existence today. Which is why it was particularly interesting to note that there were no prospective RPFs from commercial forestry employers at last week’s CLFA RPF Examination Preparation Seminar. We had the smallest number of prospective RPF Exam applicants I can recall over the past five years, but it was perhaps the most diverse in terms of education and employment. The smaller class size also allowed the instructors an opportunity to try out a new approach to teaching the exam prep curriculum. Still, it was odd not to have a single commercial forestry employer represented in the class.

Nevertheless, I am optimistic about the future of our profession and the forested landscapes of this state that so many of us have the privilege of treading upon. If there was ever a time when we needed RPFs leading the way it is now. In addition to a vital forest products industry, California needs energy production from woody biomass, greater fire resiliency across all ownership boundaries and vegetation types, continued focus on greening our urban environments, and greater communication with the people of California about what we do. There is much work to do if not gainful employment to go with it.

I’ll never forget the very first time I realized that I was being paid to hike the woods all day. It is particularly poignant now that I’m an institutional man. The thing is--every forester I know has their own version of that story. If there’s a theme that binds every possible variation of California forestry together, it’s those different versions of the same story. That “I can’t believe someone actually pays me to do this” feeling is an inherent part of the profession of forestry and I’m convinced it will perpetually be the siren song that calls would-be woods people to the fold.

Best regards from the licensing program as the leaves and temperatures drop.

Eric K. Huff  
Executive Officer-Foresters Registration  
Sacramento, CA

Questions, comments, or differences of opinion you feel compelled to share? Please do not hesitate to give me a ring or drop me an email.

# Current PFEC and Board 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.*

## **PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS EXAMINING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

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

## **PROGRAM STAFF**

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*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.*

## **MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

Mr. Stan L. Dixon, Chair  
Ms. Pam Giacomini, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Lloyd Bradshaw  
Mr. Gary Nakamura  
Dr. Douglas Piirto  
Mr. James Ostrowski  
Mr. Bruce Saito  
Mr. Thomas Walz

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## RPF and CRM Stats

As of October 2009 the following chart shows current RPF and CRM Statistics:

Status	RPF's	CRM's
Valid	1280	78
Withdrawal	135	2
Revoked for Non-Renewal or by Disciplinary Action*	733	7
Voluntarily Relinquished**	530	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2678</b>	<b>91</b>

\* The overwhelming majority of revocations were for non-renewal of the license.

\*\* Voluntary relinquishments typically occur following retirement and/or one or more withdrawal periods.

## Employment Survey Results

A brief employment survey was included in the odd-numbered license renewal forms this year. The survey will be repeated with the even-numbered renewal period in 2010. A total of 512 registrants completed the survey with another 45 choosing to leave the survey blank. The survey results are as follows:

Employment Classification	Responses
Private Industry	135
Private Consulting	125
State	93
Federal	23
Education	19
Local Government	10
Other	10
Retired	94
Unemployed	3
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>512</b>

## New Registered Professional Foresters

Congratulations to the following individuals for their success on the April 17, 2009 RPF Exam! The total number of applicants was 20 and the pass rate was 45%.

Mr. Andrew Hubbs, RPF No. 2897

Mr. Robert Blakemore Satterlee, RPF No. 2898

Mr. Gary B. Roller, RPF No. 2899

Dr. William Stewart, RPF No. 2900

Mr. Daniel E. Falk, RPF No. 2901

Mr. Rick M. Castaneda II, RPF No. 2902

Mr. Shane Compton, RPF No. 2903

Mr. Peter Christopher Leuzinger, RPF No. 2904

Mr. Christopher Blencowe, RPF No. 2905

## 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*. Among those listed below is former longtime PFEC Member and friend to many, Hal Bowman.

Mr. Wilmer Mazingo, RPF No. 1391  
Mr. Harold "Hal" Bowman, RPF No. 20  
Mr. James White, RPF No. 1676  
Dr. Rudolf W. Becking, RPF No. 294

Mr. Richard Allen, RPF No. 1675  
Mr. John Joseph Corbett II, RPF No. 1487  
Mr. David Frykman, RPF No. 2133  
Mr. Riggs Johnston, RPF No. 133

## Lost in the Woods

Though I could have included herein a lengthy list of odd-numbered registrants and others due to come out of *Withdrawal* status who have not yet renewed their licenses, I'd like to first encourage folks to have a look at their wallet cards to be sure that their registrations are current. If you have questions about your status, please phone or email at your earliest convenience. Remember, by regulation (14 CCR §1606) it is every registrant's responsibility to notify the licensing office within ten days of any address changes.

## Disciplinary Actions

**CASE NUMBER:**

**309**

**REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTER:**

**Thomas W. Sutfin, RPF No. 1951  
Soquel, CA**

**ALLEGATION:**

RPF Sutfin was alleged to have failed in his professional responsibility for providing conflicting accounts of his personal knowledge and authorization of an advanced tree falling training conducted in violation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) at Soquel Demonstration State Forest. Specifically, RPF Sutfin did not attempt to correct statements he made during the investigation of the tree falling incident though he subsequently determined that those statements were not accurate.

**AUTHORITY:**

As authorized under PRC §777 and pursuant to a finding of *negligent misrepresentation*, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection imposed the following discipline:

**DISCIPLINE:**

Mr. Sutfin and the Board have entered into a stipulated agreement wherein he admits to *negligent misrepresentation* in his practice of forestry for the alleged professional failure identified above.

Based on the foregoing, Mr. Sutfin's license to practice forestry as a professional was suspended for a period of fifteen (15) days. This suspension will become effective on July 6, 2009. Concurrent with the suspension, Mr. Sutfin will have a twelve (12) month period of probation in which to complete a Board-approved course of education in professional ethics.

Pursuant to Public Resources Code §777 and Title 14 California Code of Regulations §1614(e), at least fifteen (15) days prior to completion of the terms of the order, RPF Sutfin shall petition the Board for full reinstatement of his license and present evidence of his compliance with all disciplinary terms and conditions.

For further information on the Disciplinary Process, please review Board Policies 7-10 on the Foresters Licensing website at:

[http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/professional\\_foresters\\_registration/pfec\\_policy\\_statements/PFEC\\_Policy\\_Statements/pfecpolicies2009.pdf](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/professional_foresters_registration/pfec_policy_statements/PFEC_Policy_Statements/pfecpolicies2009.pdf)

## RPF and CRM Examination Announcements

The spring 2010 examination has been scheduled for April 16, 2010 and the deadline for applications is February 12, 2010. The fall 2010 examination has been scheduled for October 22, 2010 and the deadline for applications is August 13, 2010. Those interested in applying for the RPF or CRM examinations are encouraged to contact the Executive Officer, Eric Huff with any questions about qualifications prior to submitting an application and exam fee. Eric may be reached at 916-653-8031 or by email to [eric.huff@fire.ca.gov](mailto:eric.huff@fire.ca.gov).

## Francis H. Raymond Award Presented to Dr. William J. (Bill) Libby

On October 7, 2009, Chairman Dixon and the Members of the Board presented Dr. William J (Bill) Libby with its highest honor, the Francis H. Raymond Award for Outstanding Contributions to California Forestry. As most folks know, Dr. Libby is Professor Emeritus of Forest Genetics at UC Berkeley where he taught forestry and conducted research from 1962 to 1994. Talk to any Cal forestry graduate from that 32 year span and you will undoubtedly hear them speak of their admiration and respect for Dr. Libby. His work



with forestry students is a legacy of profound impact upon the lives of individuals. On the basis of his educational contributions to California forestry alone, Dr. Libby is a worthy recipient of this award.

But, then you look at Dr. Libby's groundbreaking work in forest tree genetics: he is recognized both nationally and internationally as an expert in the cloning of trees and the biotechnology of that enterprise. Though he's well known for his work with radiata pine and coast redwood plantation forestry in New Zealand and Australia, Dr. Libby has been traveling the world in the interest of forest genetics since he began his career. It's instructive to note that he gave a 2006 keynote address at a conference on conservation of forest genetic resources in Turkey. Judging by the number of letters of support for Dr. Libby's nomination received from outside the continental United States, I think it's safe to say that if there were an award for outstanding contributions in forestry worldwide, Dr. Libby would've already won that prize handily.

Dr. Libby's international pursuits have done little to mute his interest in domestic forestry issues. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Save the Redwoods League with a focus on promoting research on redwood forest disturbance effects and the impacts of climate change on California's coast redwood and giant sequoia forests. He was the keynote speaker at the inaugural Coast Redwood Symposium and clearly has a keen interest in these important and iconic California trees.

*Dr. Bill Libby, continued...*

His recognition of the impact of our state and national forest policy on the practice of forestry elsewhere in the world has consistently challenged folks from every walk of life to rethink their perspectives. As was highlighted in the many letters of support for his nomination, Dr. Libby has a unique ability to transcend partisan political lines in the interest of helping Californians and others recognize the importance of a global forestry ethic. For these reasons and countless others, Dr. Libby is certainly a worthy recipient of this important award.

The award is named for Francis H. Raymond who was the Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection from 1953 to 1970. Mr. Raymond was one of the primary advocates for the passage of the Professional Foresters Law in 1973. Since 1987 it has been awarded to 25 individuals or groups who have made outstanding contributions to forestry in California. **Nominations for the Raymond Award are accepted at any time and may be mailed or emailed to Eric Huff at the licensing office.**

## NR 475: Learning by Doing at Cal Poly's Swanton-Pacific Ranch

Have you heard about the field class being offered at Cal Poly's Swanton Pacific Ranch in Davenport? The official title is "Sustainable Forestry and Environmental Practices," better known as "NR 475". The 15-unit course provides instruction in the development of a Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) as well as a forum for understanding what the THP process is like from all perspectives. Students are housed on the Ranch for 5 weeks and spend their days and nights learning all about forest management. Cal Poly Professor and Swanton Pacific Ranch Director, Dr. Brian Dietterick, and his team provide integrated field and classroom instruction in hydrology, mensuration, watershed management, silviculture, forest biology, harvest engineering, and Timber Harvesting Plan preparation, among other subjects. This base of instruction is supplemented by presentations from guest instructors with a diversity of perspectives who lecture on a wide variety of forestry-related topics. During a recent student exercise on the operational layout of a Timber Harvesting Plan, no less than six RPFs were on hand to help guide the students' efforts.



What sets this course apart from the standard forestry curricula is that students are immersed in the real-life world of timber harvesting in this state. They work in groups to develop a harvesting plan that they will later have to defend in a mock pre-harvest inspection conducted by actual agency review team members. Prominent local representatives from other public interest groups are also involved and provide the students with a social perspective that could not be taught so effectively any other way. Local consulting and state agency foresters, geologists, botanists, and biologists lecture and work with the students in

the field to give them unrivaled depth and breadth of professional instruction.

## **NR 475 Continued...**

Another unique aspect of the course is that students travel on a 1,000 mile, roundtrip journey through northern California visiting with different timber companies to gain greater breadth of understanding of all the variables that influence California's timber industry. The students begin to understand the larger political context of forest management in California and wrestle with the hypocrisy of the state's consumption of imported wood products.

While the class is required for students in the Forestry and Environmental Practices Concentration, students from other concentrations, such as watershed hydrology and urban forestry, have likewise chosen to participate in the course. And, the course concept is also applied in the instruction of sustainable range management on the Ranch offered for the first time this summer. For more information on the class and other Ranch programs, contact Education and Support Coordinator, Ms. Jena Casey at (831) 458-5416 or by email to: [jrcasey@calpoly.edu](mailto:jrcasey@calpoly.edu).

## **The Renewal Process Explained**

The following is an explanation of the renewal process as provided in the Board's regulations for the registration of professional foresters and certified specialists, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 1600, *et seq.*

### **Section 1605 - Fees**

RPFs and CRMs pay their renewal fees every other year. If your license number is odd, you renew in odd numbered years. If your license number is even you renew in even numbered years. The renewal fee for RPFs is \$190; the renewal fee for CRMs is \$70. Licenses are valid until June 30 of the renewal year. Penalty fees for late renewals are \$25 a month, but cannot exceed \$150 total. The maximum combination of renewal and penalty fees then, is \$340. The reinstatement fee for licenses coming off of *withdrawal* status is \$15 and is added to the normal renewal fee.

### **Section 1606 - Address Change**

RPFs, CRMs, and applicants for either type of professional registration are required by this regulation to notify the Board within ten days of any address changes, giving both the old and new address. Yes, you are responsible for telling us you moved. We do not have GPS locators implanted in you and cannot predict the fact that you may have moved. If you do move without notifying us of the address change and do not receive your renewal in the mail, it is not our problem. So, when you call to complain about having to pay \$340 (\$190 fees + \$150 penalty fees = \$340) please do not expect sympathy. This is a professional license. You wouldn't fail to inform your clients that you have moved, so please don't exclude us either.

### **Section 1608 - Withdrawals.**

You can request that your license be placed on "withdrawal" status for up to 5 years. While your license is on withdrawal, you may not call yourself a "professional forester" or "certified rangeland manager," provide professional services, or otherwise use the registration number at any time.

You can request a withdrawal for reasons such as: military duty, working outside of the state, ill health or a disability, full time educational pursuits, or retirement. Generally, we ask that if you are requesting withdrawal at the time your renewal would be due that you ask for 4 years rather than the maximum of 5. This keeps you on track with your odd/even numbered renewal cohorts, and helps to ensure you don't fall through the cracks at any point.

Further, whether you choose 4 years or 5, you will be responsible for paying the full, two-year renewal fee when you come off of withdrawal. In other words, if you choose a 5 year withdrawal period, you will have to pay the full two-year fee though you will only have one-year remaining until the normal renewal period comes around again.

Once you request license withdrawal, it has to be approved by vote of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the Board meets once a month. Once they approve your withdrawal, you will get a letter in the mail saying your request for withdrawal was granted. At the end of the withdrawal period, you will be notified that it is once again time to renew your license. As mentioned previously, there is a \$15 reinstatement fee added to your renewal fee. The total fee then would be \$205 for RPFs coming off of withdrawal, and \$85 for CRMs. The only other option available to an RPF or CRM that does not wish to renew upon completion of the withdrawal period is permanent *voluntary relinquishment* of the license. If you don't pick one or the other of the options yourself, we pick for you and its revocation of your license for non-renewal.

License withdrawal allows you to keep your license in a holding pattern for up to five years at a time, but you must renew at the end of that withdrawal period in order to keep the license in good standing, or choose to voluntarily relinquish it. Once you've completed the normal renewal period, you may once again withdraw for up to five years. During the withdrawal period, you may choose to reinstate to active status at any time by notifying us and paying the renewal and reinstatement fees.

So it would work like this:

- You can choose to withdraw for a full five years, but we recommend you choose four in order to keep you on track with normal odd/even-numbered renewal years and avoid having to pay the two year renewal fee for only one year of active status.
- You would pay no renewal fees until your withdrawal period is over, at which time you would be responsible for the renewal fee of \$190 (RPF) or \$70 (CRM), and the reinstatement fee of \$15 for a total of \$205 (RPF) or \$85 (CRM).
- Once you've completed the normal renewal period, you can then withdraw once again for the maximum of another five years.
- If you wish to reinstate the license to active status at any time during the withdrawal period, you need only phone, pay the reinstatement and renewal fees, and wait for the Board to take action on your request at their next regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

If you have any questions about the renewal process, please give us call or send us an email. We understand there may be circumstances that prevent timely renewal and will always seek to keep your license in good standing with a minimum of fuss.

## Mark Your Calendars

### **2009 Professional Foresters Examining Committee Meeting**

- December 30, 2009. Meetings held in Sacramento; more information including meeting agendas and minutes may be found at:

[http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/professional\\_foresters\\_registration/](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/professional_foresters_registration/).

### **2009 Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Meetings**

- December 8-10, 2009; January 5-7, 2010. Meetings held in Sacramento; more information including agendas and minutes may be found at: [http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board\\_business/](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board_business/).

### **Monitoring Study Group Meeting**

- More information including meeting dates, agendas and minutes may be found at: [http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board\\_committees/monitoring\\_study\\_group/meeting\\_agendas/](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/monitoring_study_group/meeting_agendas/).

### **Range Management Advisory Committee Meetings**

- December 4-5, 2009; March 16-17, 2010. Meetings held in Sacramento; more information including agendas and minutes may be found at: [http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board\\_committees/range\\_management\\_advisory\\_committee/](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/range_management_advisory_committee/).

### **California-Pacific Section - Society for Range Management Meetings**

- For meeting dates and other Cal-Pac SRM information, please refer to the following website: <http://www.rangelands.org/casrm/index.html>.

### **California Oak Mortality Task Force – Sudden Oak Death Treatment Workshops**

- December 9, 2009, UC Berkeley. More information may be found at: <http://nature.berkeley.edu/garbelotto/english/sodtreatmenttraining.php>.

### **Amador-El Dorado Forest Forum Meetings** (Guest speakers and/or topics in parenthesis)

- December 16 (Kevin Roberts, SPI Wildlife Biologist speaking on Great Gray Owl); January 20, 2010 (possibly proposed Caples Wilderness); February 17, 2010 (Bob Harris, forestry in Russia); March 17, 2010 (TBD); and April 14, 2010 (Fred's Fire DEIS). For meeting times and locations, please contact Diane Dealey Neill at: [dianedealeyneill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dianedealeyneill@sbcglobal.net). Please also note that the group's website will be up and running soon.

### **California Urban Forests Council Meetings and Events**

- For meeting dates and other Council information, please refer to the following website: <http://www.caufc.org/>.

### **Southern California Society of American Foresters – San Gabriel Chapter Fall/Winter Dinner Meeting**

- December 10, 2009, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Camp 2, La Canada Flintridge, California. More information may be found at: <http://www.socalsaf.org/>.

### **Northern California Society of American Foresters – Sacramento-Tahoe Chapter Meetings** (Guest speakers and/or meeting topics in parenthesis; all meetings from 6:00-8:30pm)

- February 18, 2010 (Jim Pena, Tahoe Blue Ribbon Commission); March 18, 2010 (Tad Mason, Biomass Utilization & Climate Change-not yet confirmed); April 15, 2010 (Jason Nedlow, Recreation, El Dorado National Forest-not yet confirmed); May 20, 2010 (Gary Nakamura, Board of Forestry & Fire Protection). For meeting locations or more information, please contact John Melvin at [john.melvin@fire.ca.gov](mailto:john.melvin@fire.ca.gov) or 916-657-2289.

### **Northern California Society of American Foresters Winter Meeting**

- January 30, 2010, North Highlands Forest Service Fire Facility, McClellan Park, Sacramento. More information may be found at: <http://www.norcalsaf.org/>.

**USDA/University of California Conference on Pre and Post-Wildfire Forest Management for Ecological Restoration and Fire Resiliency**

- February 9-11, 2010, McClellan Park Lecture Theater, Sacramento. More information may be found at: <http://groups.ucanr.org/wildfire2010/>.

**California Licensed Foresters Association Spring Workshop and Annual Meeting**

- March 4-6, 2010, Hilton Hotel, Sacramento, California. More information may be found at: <http://clfa.org/>.

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