

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Professional Foresters Registration Program



# Licensing News



Volume 27 - Issue 1

Summer 2013

**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)  
Dr. J Keith Gilless - (Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Representative)

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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.*

Dr. J Kieth Gilless, Chair (Public Representative)  
Ms. Mary Rickert (Range-Livestock Industry)  
Mr. Richard Wade (Timber Industry Representative)  
Dr. Susan Britting (Public Representative)  
Mr. Stan L. Dixon (Public Representative)  
Mr. Bruce Saito (Public Representative)  
Mr. Michael Miles (Timber Industry Representative)  
Mr. Mark Andre (Public Representative)  
Mr. Stuart Farber (Timber Industry 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	1254	79
Withdrawn	132	3
Revoked for Non-Renewal or by Disciplinary Action	729	7
Voluntarily Relinquished	593	7
Confirmed Deceased	257	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2965</b>	<b>99</b>

### **Welcome to New Registrants**

The following individual passed the RPF Exam held on October 12th, and was approved for registration by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Congratulations and welcome to the fold!

### **OCTOBER 12TH, 2012 EXAM**

Mr. Ron Durbin, RPF 2971

The grading for the April 12th, 2013 exam is currently underway. There were a total of 19 RPF applicants and 1 CRM applicant. The results for the exam will be

announced at the July 2013 Board meeting.

## **RPF and CRM Examination Announcements**

The Fall 2013 examination has been scheduled for October 11, 2013 and the deadline for NEW applications will be August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The [examination notice](#) can be located online on the Professional Forester Registration webpage. Those interested in applying for the RPF or CRM examinations are encouraged to contact the Licensing Officer, Matt Dias with any questions about qualifications prior to submitting an application and exam fee. Matt may be reached at 916-653-8031 or by email to [matt.dias@fire.ca.gov](mailto:matt.dias@fire.ca.gov).

The 2014 Examination dates are tentatively set for April 11<sup>th</sup> and October 10<sup>th</sup>. Once the date of the exams have been finalized the Notices will be promptly published online.

## **Exam Proctor**

The Licensing Office is in need of a new proctor for the RPF/CRM examination for the Redding area. A proctor does not necessarily have to be either a RPF or CRM, but does have to be able to dedicate up to two days per year to proctor examinations. The examinations are offered in early April and October. Depending on the amount of interest expressed by the exam applicants, it is possible that an individual location may not be scheduled for certain examination dates. The commitment entails a 7:30 am – 4:30 pm timeline on the date of the exams. Proctors are reimbursed for their time and travel expenses. For those that are interested or would like more information, please contact Matt Dias. Matt may be reached at 916-653-8031 or by email at [matt.dias@fire.ca.gov](mailto:matt.dias@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. Stephen Staub RPF No. 1911**



Steve passed away in November of 2012. He was born on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1959 in Boston Massachusetts. In 1968, Steve attended Stanford University where he graduated with a degree in English in 1972. He returned to academia in 1974 attending Cal Berkeley, where he

graduated with a degree in Forestry in 1976. Steve entered the workforce working with Georgia-Pacific and then worked for many years with Big Creek Lumber Company. In the mid 1980's Steve started his own consulting firm, Staub Forestry and Environmental Service in Felton, California.

Throughout his career Steve became a fixture in the central coast forestry community and was respected by all. He was the past president of CLFA, longtime member of SAF and ACF, and served as the Chairman of the Soquel Advisory Committee for many years. He was a friend to many within and outside of the RPF community. His humor and good will is matched by few and his professionalism is match by none. Steve was an RPF since 1979. Steve will be missed.

### **Mr. George Belden RPF No. 1649**



George peacefully passed away on November 25, 2012 at home in Redding, California surrounded by family and friends. George was born in Boulder City, Nevada on July 1st, 1934. He spent his childhood in Los Angeles, California and in 1952, graduated with honors from John Marshall High School. He enlisted in the United States Navy and served in active duty during the Korean War. In the early 60's George and his family moved to Northern California. He dedicated his life to forestry. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management from Humboldt State College. During his 42 years as a forester, he managed private lands throughout Northern California and beyond. In the mid 80's he started Belden Forestry, a private consulting firm in Weaverville. George authored and self-published three books including his latest, "A Visual Guide to Identifying Native Oaks of Northern California." He was a member of ACF, CLFA, FLC, California Tree Farm Committee and the Boy Scouts of America. George also gave back to his profession by being an expert grader for the RPF examinations for over 30 years. His passion for life and historical facts inspired all who knew him or worked by his side.

### **Dr. Dale Thornburgh RPF No. 430**

Dale was born on December 1, 1931, in Tiffin, Ohio and passed away on February 24, 2013, with his family at his side. He grew up in Missoula, Montana and Bremerton, Washington. He received a BS and PhD in Forestry from the University of Washington and a MS in Forestry from UC Berkeley. While in college he was a champion hurdler and qualified for the national trials, barely missing the Olympics. In 1953 he was drafted into the Army and stationed in Brooklyn, NY. Along the way, he met the love of his life Pat Thornburgh and they were married for 52 years, enjoying their family of three sons and their wives, one foster daughter, and nine wonderful grandchildren. In 1965, Dale and Pat moved to Arcata where Dale was a professor of Silviculture and Ecosystems Management at Humboldt State

University for 40 years. Dale exposed thousands of students to a "kinder and gentler" approach to forest management. Being an avid hiker and back packer, Dale scaled most of the notable peaks in the Pacific Northwest. As a professor at HSU, Dale prided himself on being able to beat the students up the trails and was



"On the Loose for Brewers Spruce"

known for always wearing shorts, no matter what the outside temperature was. He and his colleague, Dr. John Sawyer of the Botany Dept. spent many hours in the 1970's studying the ecology of the Klamath Mountains. In one diverse area, called the Miracle Mile, they discovered 17 species of conifer trees and over 400 plants. Dale traveled worldwide to study and admire trees, spending time in Europe, China, and parts of the Middle East. Dale was an original member of the City of Arcata's Forest Management Committee and served on it for 27 years. He helped bring scientific credibility to the City Forest and brought the perspective of a California Registered Professional Forester to the committee. Dale received The Sequoia Award from

the Pacific Forest Trust on 2005.

As a student at Humboldt State University I was fortunate enough to take both Silviculture and Advanced Ecology with Dr. Dale Thornburgh. I seem to recall a bumper sticker on his vehicle that stated "On the Loose for Brewers Spruce" and Dr. Thornburgh speaking about trying to located the largest Brewers Spruce in the Marble Mountains. I have included the above photo in dedication to Dr. Dale Thornburgh, a wonderful man, great professor and mentor to many.

### **Mr. Eugene Toler RPF No. 15**

Irv was born to William Ernest and Irene Hunter Toler in Orosi, California; he was a child of the Great Depression which made a lasting impression on his character.



After High School, Irv became interested in the Civilian Pilot Training Program, and this led him to enlist in the U.S. Army Air Corp in 1942. His home base was Seething, England - 712th Squadron, 448th Bomb Group, 2nd Air Division during WWII.

Flying B-24 Liberators, Irv and his crew flew 30 missions over Europe. His crew was one of the first to complete all of their missions with all the original crew members alive. Irv achieved the rank of Captain and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, five Air Medals, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 6 Bronze Stars, American Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal, and a Presidential Unit Citation.

After the war, Irv returned home and attended U.C. Berkeley obtaining a degree in Forestry and Engineering. In 1948 Irv then moved to Burney as he had gotten employment with Swift, Star, Davies Timber Ownership, then Scott Lumber Company, and finally Big Valley Lumber Company in Bieber, California. He worked in the forests of the mountains he loved until he retired in 2000 at the age of 79.

### **Mr. Haydn Reinecker RPF No. 1353**

Jerry Haydn P. Reinecker of Sacramento, CA, was born in Oakland, CA on August 20, 1923. He passed away on June 16, 2012 at the age of 88. He is survived by his younger brother Karl and his wife Shirley Reinecker, his daughters Carol Sloan and Jean Lehmann, son David and wife Tatiana Reinecker and his adoring grandchildren Justin and Leandra Lehmann, Jonathan, Casey Ian and Devon Sloan. Jerry had a successful 31 year career as a state forester at State of California in Sacramento retiring December 28th, 1978.

### **Lost in the Woods**

The Licensing Office, with the help from Shuhani Patel, focused on getting all persons that have lost contact with the Licensing Office in proper order. Unfortunately, our previous list of RPFs that were "Lost in the Woods" had been unaccounted for over an extended period of time, which resulted in revocation of these licenses for non-payment of license renewal fees. The Licensing Office exhausted all available options in relocation efforts prior to enacting license revocations.

Please remember to contact the Licensing Office within 10 days of relocation or change of contact information as per 14 CCR 1606. Maintaining contact with the Licensing Office will alleviate your potential association with the clandestine "Lost in the Woods" crew.

### **Disciplinary Actions Report**

Since the last issue of the Licensing News complaints have been filed and are under investigation for review by the PFEC. No new disciplinary cases have been opened at this time. The Licensing Office has one disciplinary case open as follows:

**CASE NUMBER:**

**319**

**RPF:**

**Scott Leonhard, RPF 2215**

**ALLEGATIONS:**

It is alleged that the RPF's record of violations of Forest Practice Rules indicated a pattern of practice that displayed gross negligence and disregard for the Forest Practices Rules of the State of California. The accused was issued fifteen (15) Notices of Violation of Forest Practice Laws and Regulations by Forest Practice Inspectors from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) between August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The Notice of Violations spanned eight (8) different timber harvesting documents and were issued as a result of professional failure directly attributable to the accused professional practice of Forestry.

**AUTHORITY:**

As authorized under PRC §777, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection imposed the following discipline:

**DISCIPLINE:**

Mr. Leonhard and the Board have entered into a stipulated agreement wherein the respondent admits to transgressions constituting gross negligence. These offenses represent extreme departure from the prudent standards of professional practice and general indifference to the interests and welfare of the public or natural resources.

Based on the foregoing, Mr. Leonhard's license to practice forestry as a professional has been suspended for a period of one (1) year. The one (1) year of suspension, shall be followed by one (1) year of probation, during which time Mr. Leonhard shall comply with all federal, state and local laws, including all forestry related rules and regulations governing activities of a Registered Professional Forester in California. During the period of probation, all fieldwork conducted by Mr. Leonhard will be reviewed by a RPF in good standing. Additionally, four (4) harvesting documents, of which at least one shall be a THP or NTMP, must be reviewed and certified as accurate and completed by a RPF in good standing. Certifications of accuracy and completeness of fieldwork and harvesting documents shall be sent to the Executive Officer, Foresters Licensing on a weekly basis, or on an otherwise agreed upon schedule.

Mr. Leonhard shall submit to the Board, not later than five (5) days after the decision becomes effective, a complete list of all business and/or client names, addresses, and phone numbers with whom a current contractual or employment relationship exists. Furthermore, respondent shall notify the Board within ten



(10) days of any new contractual or employment relationships over the duration of the stayed order.

Pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations section 1612.2(a)(2), provides the Board to notify each business and/or client name submitted, or at its option require respondent to notify with Board approved language and proof of notification, of the offenses(s) findings and discipline imposed.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the end of the probationary period and pursuant to Public Resources Code 777, Mr. Leonhard shall petition the Board for full reinstatement for probation, and, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14 section 16414(e), present evidence of compliance with the terms and conditions of the Order. If upon review of Respondent's petition for reinstatement, the Board determines that Mr. Leonhard has dutifully abided by the terms and conditions of the Order, the matter will be deemed terminated and Case-319 closed.

## **Meetings of Interest and Special Announcements**

### **PFEC Meeting Dates for 2013**

The next PFEC meeting is scheduled for June 20th, 2013. The remaining scheduled meetings of the PFEC are scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup> of 2013. The public is free to attend open session meetings in person. 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 2013 and 2014**

The Board's next meeting is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The Board's Forest Practice, Resource Protection and Management Committees meet on the first day followed by the full Board on the second day. The [2013 Board Meeting Schedule](#) has been set and can be viewed online. Please visit the Board's website for additional information.

Chairman Gilliss and Executive Officer George "YG" Gentry have developed a new meeting schedule for the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection starting in 2014. As a result, the Board will be meeting every 5 weeks for a total of 10 meetings annually. This new schedule has been enacted as a cost saving measure as well as to provide staff an additional week of time to prepare necessary materials for each meeting. This new schedule does not preclude the Board from scheduling special meetings as the need arises. The 2014

schedule will be posted online as soon as the meeting dates have been selected.

### **California Licensed Forester Association ([CLFA](#)) RPF Exam Prep Seminar**

The RPF Exam Prep Seminar will likely be scheduled for early to mid-November 2013 at the USFA Wildfire Training Center, McClellan in Sacramento. All persons applying to sit for the RPF examination are encouraged to attend this preparation seminar. For additional information on this event please contact Heather Morrison, Executive Director at [clfa@volcano.org](mailto:clfa@volcano.org).

### **Email Distribution of the Licensing News**

It is time for the Licensing Office to embrace the technological advances that are available to us. As a cost savings measure, the Licensing Office is going to migrate towards email distribution of the Licensing News to the greatest majority of the RPF and CRM community. We understand that there are certain RPFs and CRMs that may prefer to receive a hard copy of the Licensing News and we intend to provide hard copies to those recipients, but the greatest majority of readers would likely prefer to utilize email as a source of distribution.

Electronic distribution of the Licensing News will save the Licensing Office near \$2000.00 for each issue that is distributed. In addition, it will save staff time of approximately 2 – 3 days through the elimination of navigating the process of getting bids on the print job, the process of dealing with payment of vendor(s), and dealing with other sundry paperwork required by the Office of State Printing.

You will soon be receiving a letter from the Licensing Office that is requesting your preferred email address. For the even numbered RPFs, this will come with your renewal notice, while odd numbered licensees will receive free standing correspondence requesting the information. Please respond in a timely manner so that we can start the process of digital transmission of the Licensing News from this issue forward and save resources. I really appreciate your participation in this effort.

## **2013 Francis H. Raymond Award**

The Francis H Raymond Award is presented annually by the Board to an individual or organization in recognition of outstanding contributions to the management and increased awareness of forest resources in California during the previous 5 years. Achievement during this career of the candidate is also considered.

Michael De Lasaux is the well deserving 2013 recipient. Mr. De La Saux's professional and community involvement demonstrates a record of participation in educational efforts in forestry on local, state and federal levels. The goal of these efforts is to inform varied individuals on the importance of forest management activities.

Michael's contribution to forestry includes participation in the Forestry Institute for Teachers, the Quincy Library Group, Plumas County Fire Safe Council and Forest Conservation Days. He has also been involved in the development and logistical management of a multitude of stewardship programs in northeastern California, including community chipping programs and fuels reduction projects for small forest landowners.

Mike has been a long time member of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and from 2010 – 2012 represented the Hawaii and California Chapters of SAF as an elected member of the National Council, and prior to that was elected Chair of NorCal SAF.

Mike, along with NorCal SAF, was directly responsible for the development and implementation of the Forestry for Lawyers Workshop, which serves to educate attorneys and their staff that are involved in natural resources litigation on forestry issues.

Please join me in congratulating Mr. Michael De Lasaux in receiving the 2013 Francis H. Raymond Award.

## **Francis H. Raymond Award Fund**

A call was issued several months ago by Society of American Foresters requesting contributions to the FHR Fund, which supplies recipients of the award with \$500.00 as part of their recognition. The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection wants to thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous contribution to the fund. They go as follows:

John Hastings  
Dave Bischel

Russ Henley  
Janice Bray

Doug Wickizer  
Anne and John Heissenbuttel  
Brian Barrette  
Kathleen Jordan

John Kessler  
J Lopez  
California Forestry Association  
The Forestry Employees Gift Fund

We appreciate all the donations we have received this year and your support for the Francis H. Raymond Award Fund.

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

### **"TIMES ARE A CHANG'IN II"**

The last issue of the Licensing News included an article under the same name and spoke to the changes that I had gone through professionally as I transitioned into my new role as Licensing Officer. Since then other significant changes have occurred, namely the structure of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. So once again, times are a chang'in.

In March of 2013 the Governor announced that Mr. Stan Dixon has been replaced by Dr. J. Keith Gillless as the Chairman of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Stan, one of the longest standing Chairmen of the Board, piloted the Board through the 13 years of deliberations....a task that should be taken none too lightly. Challenging rule packages and legislative mandates, mixed with personality differences and political diversity can make Chairmanship and difficult task at best. Yet, Stan was able to persevere for well over a decade in the leadership role. He provided a legacy of guidance that will serve as inspiration to many future Chairpersons, Board members and Board Staff. I think that I speak for all Board staff when I say that I am pleased that he has chosen to serve out the remaining portion of his term.

Dr. J Keith Gillless, Dean of College of Natural Resources Cal Berkeley, represents an excellent choice to shepherd the Board into the future. Dr. Gillless has a strong background in administration and policy from past professional experiences, which will lend itself to sound governance of forestry and fire protection issues. I look forward to continued work with Dr. Gillless in his new role as Chairman.

The Board currently has all 9 seats full with recent appointments and reappointments. The Governor announced that Bruce Saito has been reappointed to his public seat. He also appointed Stuart Farber (industry seat) and Mary Rickert (range seat) to the Board.

Stuart Farber, 50, of Redding, has been a wildlife biologist at W.M. Beaty and Associates Inc. since 2010. He was a wildlife and fisheries forester at the Timber Products Company from 1995 to 2010 and a senior resource forester at Plum Creek Timber Company from

1988 to 1995. Farber is a member of the Klamath-Cascade Advisory Council of the Pacific Forest Trust and the California Licensed Foresters Association. He has been a registered professional forester since 1997.

Mary Rickert, 60, of Fall River Mills, has been co-owner of both Western Agricultural Services and Prather Ranch since 1982. She is a member of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, Shasta Land Trust and Shasta Regional Community Foundation. Rickert is the Shasta County Committee Chair of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency. She was a member of the Shasta County Mental Health Board from 2000 to 2010.

Both Members Farber and Rickert still require Senate confirmation of their appointments.

### ***THE MOU***

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) and Pacific Southwest Region 5 of the United States Forest Service (USFS) entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1992 that expressed a bilateral understanding of the role of the Registered Professional Forester when forestry work was conducted on federal lands or under contract with the federal agency. The nexus for the development of the MOU related to issues raised by the State in reference to unlicensed individuals performing forestry related work under contracts with the Forest Service. The adopted MOU set forth an agreement of mutual respect and understanding of the statutory requirements of the Professional Foresters Law of the state and the professional competence of the USFS foresters that are not currently registered by the state.

Within a few years of its adoption the working knowledge of this MOU seemed to wane and there were complaints by the RPF community that USFS contracts for forestry work were being awarded to non-licensed individuals, which was in direct conflict of the existing MOU and the Professional Foresters Law. It was at this time, which was well over a decade ago, that the Licensing Office tried to engage with various employees of the USFS to reintroduce the MOU to the USFS staff and to galvanize the conditions set forth within the agreement so that contract work would be offered to RPFs as intended and agreed upon. Unfortunately the USFS was seemingly uninterested in engaging in any type of real discussion on this topic and the issue could never be resolved.

Enter 2013 and new leadership with the Pacific Southwest Region 5. I was fortunate enough to meet Mr. Bernie Gyant, Deputy Regional Forester, at the California Licensed Forester Association business meeting in March. Bernie has held this position within Region 5 since June of 2012. We were able to discuss the MOU over lunch, and Mr. Gyant expressed interest in working on the issues presented to him. Additionally, he closed his keynote speech to those present stating that he personally would like to see

the MOU updated and that he would be the single point of contact for the USFS on the issue.

The remaining portions of Mr. Gyants' presentation during the business meeting focused on the problems that the Forest Service faces in terms of efficiently meeting "ecological restoration" goals. Forest management activities are at historical low point in terms of acres treated and wood fiber produced, while acres burned in conflagrations are at historical highs. These statistics indicate that the goals of ecological restoration are not being met. Contributing factors that limit achieving these goals include prolific and lengthy litigation, lack of consensus amongst stakeholders on development of management plans and staffing problems due to high rates of retirement and turnover.

While critically examining the situation it becomes clear that the initial foundation of the MOU, being a mutual respect between the BOF and USFS in regards to professional forestry work, can play an important role in helping the Forest Service meet their objectives of ecological restoration. Vital byproducts of recognition of the MOU would be building economic resiliency of the state's rural communities and developing a stronger relationship between the federal agency and industry.

I was fortunate enough to be able to sit down with Mr. Gayant and Doris Brousschard, Acting Director of Acquisition Management, in late April to discuss the opportunities that by reviving the original intent of the MOU. I spoke on behalf of the RPF community and what we can do to support the USFS in the near future. We spent a limited amount of time discussing some of the historic highpoints of the MOU development, but focused most of our time on trying to discuss how to get RPFs working for the USFS to aid in increasing the pace and scale of stewardship based management on forest service lands.

Indefinite delivery/Indefinite Quantities (IDIQ) contracts are awarded to individuals that are placed on categorized lists and can demonstrate certain skill sets. In the case of RPFs, this skill set may include everything from forest inventory to NEPA analysis. The RPF must be able to demonstrate his or her skills to be eligible for a various scopes of work, but once they are listed they would be eligible for contract work through a competitive bid process. Currently, the IDIQ lists are considered the primary source under which forestry services are obtained by the federal agency. The USFS is reviewing options which may include enhanced contracts in the future to focus on a diverse and includes RPF representation.

There are 18 National Forests in California. They encompass millions of acres and are located throughout most of the counties of the state. I am hopeful that the RPFs that are located throughout the state show interest and participate vigorously in response to future solicitations for forestry services to demonstrate our willingness to create new partnerships with the Forest Service. I will continue advocating statewide partnerships and personally will continue working USFS to encourage new opportunities in form of the

new contract opportunities for RPFs. Don't be surprised if your phone rings with a call from me urging you to actively participate in future federal solicitations for RPFs.

### Professional Foresters Registration Fund

In March of 2013 I made the announcement during a brief presentation at the California Licensed Foresters Association that I was looking into the fiscal sustainability of the Professional Foresters Registration Fund. The drive behind this project was concerns expressed by CAL FIRE Executive Staff that the long-term solvency of the fund may be an issue. I have started working with CAL FIRE Accounting and Budgets Departments to generate a trend analysis of the Professional Foresters Registration Fund. Both Departments have been very supportive to date.

The only way to rectify issues with fund solvency, should problems exist, is to raise bi-annual license renewal fees. I have made it clear to both the Department Accounting and Budgets Offices that I cannot proceed with increasing license renewal rates without a clear evidence of need. I am working to collect data that will allow me to conduct a trend analysis of revenues and expenditures over the last decade so that I can present the information to the Professional Foresters Examining Committee for additional deliberation and discussion.

I will keep the RPF and CRM communities aware of latest information through the Licensing News and/or newsletters from other professional organizations.

### SAF ACCREDITATION, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE.....YOU DECIDE

Many RPFs utilized college education, from either a two year or four year institution, as a portion of the required experience to be eligible to sit for the RPF exam. Title 14 § 1621.4 provides directive on how one can substitute work experience with academic experience, much of which relies upon Society of American Foresters (SAF) Accreditation. The SAF accredited curriculum is the standard which the Licensing Office utilizes for purposes of comparative analysis for individuals who apply to take the examination and are attempting to utilize forestry related education as experience. For instance, should an applicant provide transcripts documenting a degree in forestry from the University of Nevada Reno, which is currently not SAF accredited, it becomes the responsibility of the Licensing Office to make an equitable determination of how much experience can be substituted. It is in these cases that a comparative analysis of the completed course work of the applicant is contrast to the required course work of a SAF accredited university. It is often the case that non-SAF accredited degrees in forestry will received substantially less time than the 4 years granted to an individual that attend an SAF accredited university.

This long standing tradition of SAF accreditation is about experience transformation with the introduction of the new "Terrestrial Ecosystems Management Accreditation". This is a project that has been in the works for quite some time and may be nearing adoption by the SAF National Council very soon. It is important to understand that this new accreditation system is not going to replace the current forestry accreditation, but is a new accreditation system that is targeting the current natural resources student body. SAF has focused attention on this new program in response to the attrition of traditional forestry students at the university level, with the trend shifting toward elevated enrollment in general natural resources or environmental sciences programs. SAF recognizes this as a potential risk to the sustainability of their accreditation program and developed this alternative standard to maintain a relevant position in academia.

I have discussed this new accreditation program with David Newman, Chair of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at State University New York (SUNY). SUNY has a long standing accreditation of their forestry program and is acting in the capacity of the "guinea pig" for this new accreditation standard. He is working closely with Carol Redelsheimer, Director of Science and Education with SAF and the Accreditation Committee in the development of this new program. Mr. Newman was very clear in stating the new accreditation will not apply to forestry majors, but will apply towards their growing Natural Resource majors. The final adoption of this new accreditation program lies in the hands of the SAF National Council, but the Accreditation Committee is still working up the final version of the Model of Standards that will outline the benchmarks that each program must meet or exceed to become accredited. It is anticipated that the final Model of Standards will be recommended to the Council within the next several months for consideration.

Humboldt State University, Cal Poly and Cal Berkeley are all working towards their audits for SAF accreditation of their forestry programs in the next year or two. It is quite possible, and even likely, that the three California Universities that house accredited forestry program will also apply, and be granted, Terrestrial Ecosystems Management accreditation.

The question for the RPF community is if the profession wants to be exclusive or inclusive of this new accreditation by SAF. At this juncture, the Regulations simply refer to SAF Accreditation, not Forestry or Terrestrial Ecosystems Management Accreditation. The regulations are wholly inclusive. Discussions will have to occur in the future about the potential for maintaining the regulations as they current reside, or move to modify the regulations to assure that exam applicants that are receiving a full 4 years credit for a Bachelor of Science or full 2 years credit for an Associates of Science degree are products of a SAF Forestry accredited program. I look forward to input from individuals RPFs and/or organizations that have opinions on this topic.

WEBSITE UPDATE



Over the last several months I, along with Alisha Herring, CAL FIRE Electronic/Print Information Analyst, have been working on updating the Professional Foresters Registration website. This was an effort to try to minimize the amount of internal links within the webpage and to populate the previous dead space with pertinent information.

In addition to reorganizing the website, I also wanted to provide potential RPF applicants with some information that will facilitate studying for the exam. Thus, we have posted several copies of scanned books, including Regulations of Logging in California (1945 - 1975), A Tale of Two Certificates, and the California Forestry Handbook on our website for simplified access. I have also provided a bibliography of other useful study resources and a list of other websites that may prove useful during studying efforts. The past two years of exams are also located on this webpage. I would encourage all RPFs to pass along this information to persons who aspire to take the examination in the near future. You can find the above mentioned study materials on the Professional Foresters Registration Website.