

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS REGISTRATION**

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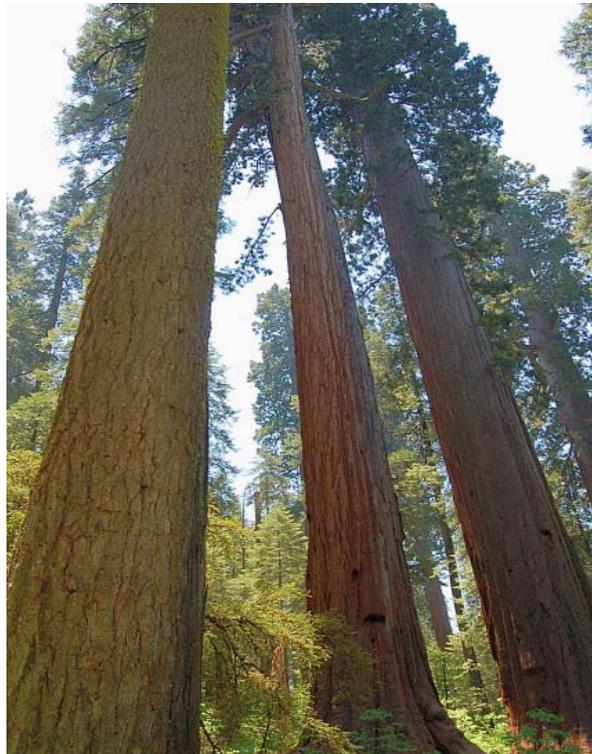


Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Professional Foresters Registration Program



Licensing News

Volume 24, Issue 1



May 2009

The View from the 15th Floor

“What do you mean my license has been revoked for non-payment?!”

As you will see later on in this edition of the *News*, there are no RPFs or CRMs listed as “Lost in the Woods.” This is a result of Kirsten’s exhaustive review of every last file in our possession and subsequent outreach to those registrants whose status appeared to be in question. This of course also means that a fair number of licenses were revoked for non-payment of renewal fees following our attempts to persuade those licensees to reinstate. The Board took action to revoke the last set of licenses in April and since then we’ve heard from a couple of those whose were included on that final list. By statute, a person who loses their license for non-renewal has up to 12 months in which to reinstate their license to good standing. By paying \$340.00 in renewal and penalty fees, and petitioning the Board for reinstatement, a license can be fully restored without further condition.

To be completely straight with you, I’ve let many licensees go years without dropping the revocation hammer. I wanted to be absolutely certain that we had a complete and accurate record of every person’s status before we went down that road. We have that accurate record now and the delay in revocations could no longer be justified. It is our hope that many more folks take advantage of the opportunity to restore their licenses before next April. Some of the licenses revoked belonged to individuals we are no longer able to locate—moved on to other woods perhaps. It bears repeating particularly at renewal time that if you don’t let us know where you’ve moved, it will be awful hard to get a renewal notice to your correct address.

For those that haven’t heard, John P. “Jack” Sweeley, RPF No. 95 was honored at the CLFA Annual Business Meeting as the first ever recipient of the “Outstanding Forester of the Year Award.” Following RPF and CLFA Director, Ryan McKillop’s introduction, Mr. Sweeley held us in rapt attention as he spoke of his life experiences and the changes affecting our profession he has witnessed. For those who were there to hear him speak of the virtues of the mattock over the shovel, I must confess that I was learnt the art of erosion control by a number of shovel wielding masters of the waterbar. I will give up my shovel when it is pried from my cold, dead hands. Regardless of our respective hand tools of choice, I greatly admire Mr. Sweeley’s sense of responsibility, if not outright fondness, for the land. And, I was grateful to have heard him speak of it first hand, with a conviction he has undoubtedly carried for a great deal longer than I have been alive. His reminder to honor those whose boots walked the ground ahead of us and remember the lessons they taught us has seldom left my thoughts since.

Now let me conclude by offering my thanks to the fine foresters I’ve met of late at the Amador-El Dorado Forest Forum; the Auburn/Grass Valley, Jackson/Sonora CLFA breakfast groups; and the High Sierra Chapter of SAF. One of the really great things about my job is that I get to meet foresters working in a variety of settings. I get to see with my own eyes that forestry in this state is a comprehensive occupation with a lot of character...and characters. It is always a pleasure to talk with engaged individuals who are working in forestry on the ground and staying connected with their colleagues. More than a pleasure, it is inspiring.

Best to you from the licensing program as the summer begins.

-Eric

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 Information:

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, RPF (Withdrawn)-Public Representative
Mr. Michael Stroud, CRM/RPF-Certified Specialty
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
Mr. David Nawi
Dr. Douglas Piirto
Mr. James Ostrowski
Mr. Bruce Saito
Mr. Thomas Walz

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HOW TO CONTACT US

In addition to the email addresses and phone numbers listed above, questions about the status of your license, change of address notification, Board information, needs, wants or gripes may all be mailed as follows:

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and/or Professional Foresters Registration Program
P.O. Box 944246

Sacramento, California 94244-2460

www.bof.fire.ca.gov

Renewal Time Approaching!

RPF and CRM renewal notices for odd numbered licenses expiring on June 30, 2009 were mailed out with this edition of the *News*. Upon receipt of the notice, please return the contact information form along with a check or money order payable to Professional Foresters Registration for your 2 year renewal fee - \$190.00 if you're an RPF and \$70.00 if you're a CRM. On the contact information form to be returned with your renewal payment you will find a **brief employment survey**. The survey is intended to help track where RPFs and CRMs are working these days and will be repeated for even numbered licensed renewals in 2010. Please take the time as you review and edit the contact information form to also complete the employment survey before returning it to the licensing office.

RPF and CRM Stats:

As of May 1, 2009 the following chart shows current RPF Statistics:

	RPF's	CRM's
Valid	1285	81
Withdrawal	132	1
Revoked	736	3
Voluntary Relinquished	522	4
Total	2675	89

New Registered Professional Foresters:

Congratulations to the following individuals for their success on the October 17, 2008 RPF Exam! The total number of applicants was 22 and the pass rate was 64%.

Mr. Chris Ramey	RPF No. 2883	Mr. Ross F. Brazil	RPF No. 2890
Mr. Michael W. Vollmer	RPF No. 2884	Mr. Joseph C. Puentes	RPF No. 2891
Mr. Christopher Lee	RPF No. 2885	Mr. Robert Clifton East	RPF No. 2892
Mr. Wesley W. Guthrie	RPF No. 2886	Mr. Adam Crook	RPF No. 2893
Mr. Daniel Ryan Boudreaux	RPF No. 2887	Mr. Justin P. Kostick	RPF No. 2894
Mr. Kevin P. Conway	RPF No. 2888	Mr. Edwin Simpson IV	RPF No. 2895
Mr. Brian David Bishop	RPF No. 2889	Mr. Jeffrey C. Barrett	RPF No. 2896

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*:

Mr. David B. Alderman, RPF No. 1945
Mr. Alan M. Engebretson, RPF No. 1800
Mr. Joel K. Rankin, RPF No. 1285
Mr. Scollay C. Parker, RPF No. 414

Mr. Robert L. Leatherman, RPF No. 12
Dr. Raymond D. Ratliff, CRM No. 2
Mr. Ronald V. Amerio, RPF No. 795

What's New with the PFEC?

The PFEC last met on February 26, 2009. Among the topics discussed was the RPF examination pass rate. Low exam pass rates have frequently been reviewed by the PFEC over the years--most recently in response to the 16% pass rate reported for the October 2002 exam. The present concern however, is the result of pass rates above 60% for the April 2007, April 2008, and October 2008 examinations. The results of these exams caused more than a few folks to wonder if the PFEC was doing something, intentionally or otherwise, to increase the pass rate. The PFEC and its contracted Expert Examiners accordingly reviewed exam pass rates from October 2008 all the way back to the very first examination offering in October 1973.

Interestingly, the exam pass rate was much higher between 1973 and 1986 (about 61%) than between 1987 and the present (about 43%). Indeed, the second examination offering of April 1974 resulted in a 100% pass rate and the pass rate seldom dropped below 50% until the late 1980's.

However, there has always been significant variation between examination offerings. For example, the April 1977 pass rate was 36% while the following October the rate was 83%. In April 1978 the pass rate was down again at 43%, but then went to 80% in October. Following a pass rate of 49% in April 1981, the pass rate did not drop below 60% again until October 1984.

Over the last 16 examination offerings going back to April 2001, the pass rate has been between 50% and 70% on only 4 occasions. The remaining 12 exams all resulted in pass rates no higher than 47%, including the aforementioned October 2002 exam pass rate of 16%. So, what if anything can be concluded from this historical pass rate data? For one thing, a higher pass rate on a given exam has always been tempered by a lower rate on a subsequent exam and vice versa. Just as university test scores are highly variable between cohorts of students, we should similarly expect that kind of variation on the RPF exam. For another thing, the RPF exam is always going to be 7 hours long, comprehensive in scope, and with a low margin for error. If you miss a passing score on one question, you can fail the exam even with passing scores on the remaining 5 questions.

Other possible influences over the pass rate may include participation in the CLFA RPF Exam Preparation Seminar, occupation seasonality and/or weather-related impacts, the number of years since college or university graduation, and daily responsibilities for care of dependent children and elders. The first time pass rate is higher among those who attended the exam prep seminar, so perhaps the number of seminar attendees in each exam cohort is a determining factor for the pass rate. It seems plausible to say the least that a busy logging and fire season (or both) would result in less time to prepare for the exam thereby resulting in reduced potential for success. It is typical to see a higher number of exam postponements in the Fall than the Spring due to statewide fire suppression and timber harvesting activities. It also seems likely that the further away one is from forestry school graduation, the harder it is to prepare for a test like the RPF exam.

Regardless of all the possible reasons why the pass rate is so variable, it should be clear that the PFEC would like to see more applicants achieve success on the exam. To that end, the licensing program participates in the CLFA RPF Exam Preparation Seminar every November and provides applicants with copies of past exams and other study materials as requested. At least once a year, we deliver a presentation on licensing to forestry students and we occasionally have a chance to talk directly with applicants who have called to solicit advice on how best to prepare for an upcoming exam. We'll keep doing these things with the hope that they do have a positive impact on the pass rate. But, we may have to accept that applicant success has more to do with individual preparation, composure, and confidence than anything else.

CLFA's First Executive Director, Hazel Jackson Retires

This was Hazel Jackson's last CLFA Annual Meeting as Executive Director, as she passed the mantle of leadership on to her successor, RPF Heather Morrison. Hazel was the first and only Executive Director of the organization from its inception to the present. It is no secret that the foundation she provided for the organization over that lengthy period of time allowed it to flourish. Hazel has been a friend and mentor to many a forester over many years and never failed to point a young would-be RPF in the right direction. Her contributions to the profession of forestry and the members of the Association are staggering in number and effect. The Professional Foresters Examining Committee and staff of the Licensing Program wish her well and *bon voyage* as she embarks on a long anticipated trip to France to indulge her passion for French Impressionist art.

Disciplinary Actions:

Currently, there are seven licensing complaints in various stages of investigation and review. The following is a summary of the status of licensing Case D-308. This matter was heard before an Administrative Law Judge on October 30-31, 2008 and the judge's proposed decision was presented to the Board for consideration in December 2008. The Board took action to adopt the Judge's proposed decision during Executive Session on January 6, 2009 and the Disciplinary Order imposing 3 years of probation under specific terms became effective the following day. 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

CASE NUMBER:

308

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTER:

**Edgar R. Orre, RPF No. 2292
Soquel, CA**

ALLEGATION:

The complaint alleged professional failures associated with the falling of 73 large diameter conifer and hardwood trees in Soquel Demonstration State Forest. Specifically, Mr. Orre failed to disclose the tree falling associated with an advanced chainsaw training course conducted in a publicly owned forest in violation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Though the trees were inside the boundary of a proposed Timber Harvesting Plan under interagency review, they were not described in that proposed Plan. Mr. Orre made no effort to inform the general public about the felled trees nor did he inform members of the interagency review team conducting the field review of the Plan. The trees were later independently observed and full public disclosure was subsequently provided.

AUTHORITY:

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

DISCIPLINE:

The matter was heard by Administrative Law Judge, Karen J. Brandt on October 30 and 31, 2008. Judge Brandt issued her proposed decision to the Board on December 3, 2008, concluding that Mr. Orre's conduct constituted *gross negligence*.

In response to this finding, Judge Brandt recommended that Mr. Orre's license be suspended for 6-months, stayed for 3-years of probation under specific terms and conditions. The Board reviewed the proposed decision and voted to adopt it without modification on January 6, 2009. The Board's Order became effective January 7, 2009. The terms and conditions of the 3-year term of probation are as follows:

1. Within one year after the effective date of the Board's decision, Mr. Orre shall successfully complete a training program, approved in advance by the Board as being specifically related to the area(s) of professional failure.
2. During the period of probation, Mr. Orre shall practice under the supervision of a Registered Professional Forester or other specialist approved by the Board.
3. Mr. Orre shall obey all laws and regulations related to the practice of forestry.
4. Mr. Orre shall submit such special reports as the Board may require during the course of his probation, including writing an article for Licensing News, a Board publication, about the importance of CEQA compliance and public disclosure.
5. If Mr. Orre violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Mr. Orre notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and reinstate the suspension that was stayed. If a Petition to Revoke Probation is filed against Mr. Orre during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final.
6. Upon successful completion of probation, Mr. Orre's license will be fully restored.

RPF and CRM Examination Announcement

The next exam is scheduled for October 9, 2009 new applications for the October RPF and CRM Examinations must be postmarked no later than August 7, 2009. Those interested in applying for the exam are encouraged to contact the licensing office with any questions or concerns.

Francis H. Raymond Award

A recipient for the 2008 Award has been chosen and the Board is now requesting nominations for the **2009 Francis H. Raymond Award**. The award is given to the individual(s), organization, agency or company who has contributed the most to the management and increased awareness of California's forested resources over the past five years. The award is named in honor of Francis H. Raymond, former State Forester and leading advocate of the passage of Assembly Bill 469 in 1972, which resulted in the Professional Foresters Licensing Law.

The Life of Francis H. Raymond, RPF No. 1

Francis H. Raymond was born in Florence, Oregon on November 5, 1906; attended high school in Miami Florida; graduated from Colorado College in 1930 with a degree in Forestry; married his fellow classmate Muzzelle Mather on July 16, 1930 in Santa Cruz, California; worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a Lookout and Road Checker; and then for the California Forest Experiment Station in the Statewide Vegetation Type Mapping Project.

In June of 1931, he was appointed as an Assistant State Forest Ranger in Monterey County for the California Division of Forestry (at \$140 per month), and worked in many positions for CDF including Forest Technician, Ranger, and Deputy State Forester. In 1953, he was appointed Chief Deputy State Forester, and in June of 1955, was permanently appointed as State Forester of California.

During his tenure, he served as President of the national Association of State Foresters; helped establish and served as the Chairman of the Western Forest Fire Research Council; was the first President of Forestry's 25-Year Club; and was an active member of the California-Nevada-Hawaii Forest Fire Committee of the Western Forestry and Conservation Association.

He retired in August of 1970 after 40 years of service with the CDF. That year he was presented the Silver Smokey Award for outstanding service by the National Fire Prevention Committee.

He then agreed to work as a legislative advocate for the introduction and passage of a bill calling for the licensing of professional foresters. Representing the Society of American Foresters and the Association of Consulting Foresters he was successful in his efforts and was awarded for his efforts by receiving Registered Professional Foresters License Number 1; and served for seven years on the Board of Forestry's Professional Foresters Examining Committee.

Concerned over political attacks on the CDF, Raymond took it upon himself to push for departmental status. He was successful in getting a bill to the Governor's desk in 1970, where it was vetoed.

He continued to lobby and on January 1, 1977, the Department of Forestry was created. He was instrumental in establishing an Annual Legislative Forestry Forum as SAF Northern California Section Liaison Officer. In 1976, he was recognized by the Section for his contributions, and in 1979 was elected to the status of Fellow of the Society of American Foresters.

In 1980, the U.S. Forest Service in celebration of its 75th Anniversary recognized Francis for his significant contributions to forestry in the United States. In 1979, Francis had bypass surgery, and on January 10, 1984, he succumbed to lung cancer.

To honor the work done by Francis H. Raymond, former CDF Staff Chief Brian R. Barrette petitioned the Board to create a F.H. Raymond Award to be given to an individual or organization for outstanding contributions during the prior five years to the protection and wise use of forest resources in California. The Award recognizes outstanding performances in management, research, education, and seeking public awareness of forest resources. Since 1987 the Board has presented the Francis H. Raymond Award on 24 occasions.

Past recipients of the Award include: Scott Johnson of the California Forest Pest Council; Bill Dennison, former Plumas County Supervisor; John Nicoles of Talk About Trees, Forestry Institute for Teachers, and Forest Conservation Days; William Beaty of Beaty and Associates; The State Fire Safe Council; the Collins Pine Company; Ronald Adams and Sherman Finch of the Forestry Center at Cal Expo; The Quincy Library Group; Frank Barron of Crane Mills; Tad Mason of TSS Consultants; the late Gil Murray of the California Forestry Association; Kay Antunez of the Project Learning Tree program; Gary Nakamura of UC Cooperative Extension; Bud McCrary of Big Creek Lumber Company; Andy Lipkis of TreePeople; Norm Pillsbury of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; John Zivnuska of UC Berkeley; Ray Rice of the US Forest Service; Peter Passof of UC Cooperative Extension; Roseburg Resources Company; the Redwood Region Conservation Council; Jim Jenkinson of the US Forest Service; and Nancy Inmon of the Trees Are For People program.

Contributions to endow the Francis H. Raymond Award are greatly appreciated. The stipend that accompanies this Award depends on the interest earned from donations made to the Francis H. Raymond Fund. For further information or to make a donation, please contact the licensing program at 916-653-8031 or by email to eric.huff@fire.ca.gov.

Mark Your Calendars:

2009 PFEC Meetings

- June 25 - December 17
- August 27

2009 Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Meetings

- May 5-7 - July 7-9 - September 1-3 - November 3-5
- June 2-4 - August 4-6 - October 6-8 - December 8-10

Range Management Advisory Committee Meetings

- May 19-20 - July 21-22 - September 15-16 - November 17-18

California Licensed Foresters Associations Workshops and Events:

- **CLFA RPF Exam Preparation Seminar**, Friday, November 20, 2009, Sacramento Hilton. Registration will open about September 1 and will be posted at: www.clfa.org/workshops.htm
- **2009 Cal Fire Archaeological Surveyor Training Sessions**
2 Initial *Cal Fire* Archaeological Surveyor Certification Classes are scheduled as follows:
 - Class #118:** April 27-May 1, 2009 - Redding
 - Class #119:** May 18-22, 2009 - Redding

If you haven't taken the Initial *Cal Fire* Archaeological Surveyor course yet, it is certainly something you should consider doing. I guarantee it will add another element to your perception of the landscape. Please note that getting certified to conduct archaeological surveys for *CAL FIRE* projects such as Emergency Notices, Exemptions, Timber Harvesting Plans, and Non-industrial Timber Management Plans does **not** mean you are a professional archaeologist.

1-Day Refresher Classes: If you last attended an archaeological training session in 2004 you will need to attend a 2009 refresher class to retain your certification. 2009 Refresher Classes have been scheduled for October 6, 7 & 8 in Redding. Registration materials are posted on the CLFA website at: <http://clfa.org/workshops.htm>

Other Continuing Education Opportunities:

- 2009 Oregon Urban and Community Forestry Conference, June 4, World Forestry Center, Portland, Oregon <http://www.oregoncommunitytrees.org/>
- Western Forestry and Conservation Association – “Basic Cable Logging Systems for Forest Managers: Function, Layout, and Operability,” June 15-16, Shelton, Washington; June 18-19, Springfield, Oregon http://www.westernforestry.org/basic_cable/basic_cable.htm
- Council on Forest Engineering Annual Meeting, “Environmentally Sound Forest Operations,” June 15-18, North Tahoe Conference Center, Kings Beach, California <http://www.cevs.ucdavis.edu/confreg/?confid=382>
- Western Forestry and Conservation Association - Advanced Insect and Disease Field Session Identification, “Life Cycles, Control Measures and Silvicultural Regimes,” July 13-16, Klamath Falls, Oregon <http://www.westernforestry.org/insectanddisease/insectanddisease.htm>
- Western Forest Genetics Association 2009 Biennial Meeting, “Adaptation of Trees to Changing Climate,” August 9 -13, Asilomar, California <http://www.westernforestry.org/wfga/wfga.htm>