

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Professional Foresters Registration  
Program



# Licensing News

Summer 2018  
Volume 30 - Issue 1

*Photo: Cal Fire VMP burn under a shaded fuel break on timberland adjacent to the Gold Ridge community in Pollock Pines, CA.*

## **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. Otto van Emmerik, Chair – RPF (Industry)  
Mr. Dan Sendek – RPF (Public)  
Dr. Kimberley Rodrigues, Vice Chair – RPF (Public)  
Mr. William Snyder – RPF (Cal Fire, Retired)  
Mr. Gerald Jensen – RPF (USFS, Retired)  
Mr. Jason Poburko – RPF (Cal Fire)  
Mr. Larry Forero – CRM (Certified Specialty)

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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 Keith Gillless, Chair (Public Representative)  
Mr. Mark Andre, Vice Chair (Public Representative)  
Ms. Darcy Wheelles (Public Representative)  
Mr. Richard Wade (Timber Industry Representative)  
Ms. Susan Husari (Public Representative)  
Mr. Marc Los Huertos (Public Representative)  
Mr. Mike Jani (Timber Industry Representative)  
Ms. Katie Delbar (Range/Livestock Representative)  
Christopher Chase (Timber Industry Representative)

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

The view is relatively clear here on the 15<sup>th</sup> floor as the 2018 fire season has just begun and things are now heating up. Although this winter brought about good periods of rainfall, the usual depth of Sierra-Nevada snow accumulation is only about two-thirds of normal so Cal Fire is gearing up for another eventful fire season.

The composition of Board membership has changed slightly in 2018 as Timber Representative and RPF Mr. Mike Miles, has relinquished his position to an industry colleague, Mr. Mike Jani of Mendocino and Humboldt Redwood Company. Mr. Jani has worked in the industry for some time and has earned the respect and appreciation of foresters, loggers and activists alike as he spearheaded the transition of Palco timberlands into the ownership of the Fisher family, best known for their GAP apparel business. I enjoyed working with Mr. Miles who has a great sense of humor and a unique ability to sift through the details of any proposed regulation or policy for needed clarification. My first impression of Mr. Jani is that he shares Mr. Miles ability to ask the questions needed to help formulate effective Board policy and rulemaking.

In March and April of this year, the Board re-appointed Dr. Kimberly Rodrigues (RPF 2326, UCANR) and Mr. Dan Sendek (RPF 2285, Cal Fire) to the Professional Foresters Examination Committee as public members. Dr. Rodrigues and Mr. Sendek have provided much expertise and understanding to the issues relating to the professional license and the examination RPFs. I'm very happy they will continue in their roles as we work to amend the Registration of Professional Foresters Rules (PRC sections 1600 et. seq.) to increase RPF and CRM renewal fees, provide for a limited "Emeritus" RPF license for those with the required qualifying years of practice (>25 years), and to align CRM Discipline more clearly in regulation with that of RPFs.

The Board of Forestry Staff is evolving as we have a new attorney to guide the body through the legal morass that constitutes California's statutes and regulations. Jeff Slaton comes to us by way of the California Department of Housing and Community Development and has been very effective in helping staff to navigate the various legal requirements and formulate language that complies with both statute and regulation. We are very happy to have him join us here at the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

### **Snapshot in History**



State Forester Francis Raymond being interviewed by Farm Bureau Television in 1969

## REGULATIONS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2018

The 2017 Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) had a productive year with several new regulations and amendments to existing regulation. The Board also approved emergency regulation to assist in post fire salvage in the counties of Napa, Sonoma and Mendocino in 2018. A full list can be viewed at the [Board website](#).

### **REGULATION FILES (new addition to Board's website)**

All regulation files are now available at the Board website [here](#).

## 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 as of June 19, 2018.

<b>STATUS</b>	<b>RPF's</b>	<b>CRM's</b>
Valid	1,149	85
Withdrawn	162	6
Revoked (non-payment or disciplinary action)	756	11
Voluntarily Relinquished	674	10
Suspended	1	0
Deceased	311	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>117</b>

## RPF and CRM Examination Announcements

The Winter 2018 examination has been scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and the deadline for NEW applications will be August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The Spring 2019 Examination has been scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup> and the deadline for NEW applications for that exam is February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The [examination notice](#) can be located online on the Professional Forester Registration webpage.

**NOTICE:** The RPF examination in October 2018 will be conducted in Redding and Sacramento locations only. Starting in 2019, all exams will be in Sacramento. This is the result of cost cutting measures to maintain the RPF licensing fund. Exam Notices can be found at the following link:

[http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/professional\\_foresters\\_registration/rpf\\_and\\_crm\\_examinations/](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/professional_foresters_registration/rpf_and_crm_examinations/).

Those interested in taking the RPF or CRM examinations are encouraged to contact Dan Stapleton with any questions about qualifications prior to submitting an application and exam fee. Dan may be reached at 916-653-6634 or by email at [dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov](mailto:dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov).

## **Welcome to New Registrants**

The following individuals passed the RPF or CRM Exams held in October 2017 and April 2018 and were approved for registration by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Congratulations and welcome!

### **October 6, 2017 Exam**

Milan Atwell – RPF No. 3051

Julian Womble – RPF No. 3052

Evan Light – RPF No. 3053

Justin Britton – RPF No. 3054

Joseph Starr – RPF No. 3055

Nikolai Hall – RPF No. 3056

Nochella Funes – RPF No. 3057

Miao Ling He – CRM No. 115

Billy Freeman – CRM No. 116

Robert Gillaspay – CRM No. 117

### **April 6, 2018 Exam**

Michael Hoe – RPF No. 3058

Elliot Vander Kolk – RPF No. 3059

Ryan Wimmer – RPF No. 3060

Brita Rustad – RPF No. 3061

Robert Aguero – RPF No. 3062

Connor Goldstein – RPF No. 3063

Dennis Webb – RPF No. 3064

James Woodside – RPF No. 3065

Richard 'Kyle' Keller – RPF No. 3066

Michael Esposito – RPF No. 3067

Christopher Henderson – RPF No. 3068

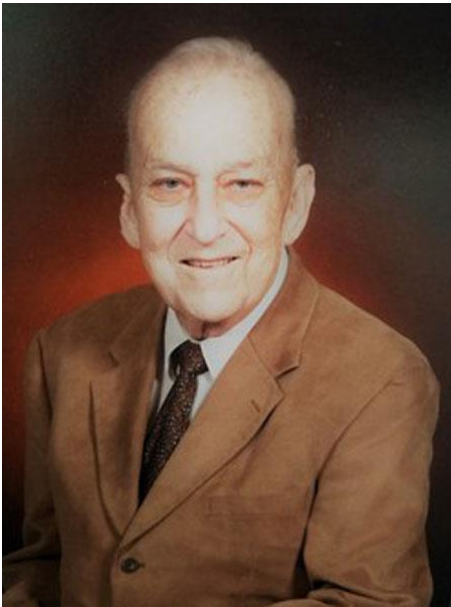
Fadzayi Mashiri – CRM No. 118

Todd Golder – CRM No. 119

Kendra Moseley – CRM No. 120

## In Memoriam

This section is devoted to the memory of those fine foresters who have passed from our ranks. Regrettably, I am sometimes late in getting this information posted. So that I may provide timely remembrances, if you have knowledge of an RPF or CRM passing, please forward this information to my Board email address at [dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov](mailto:dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov) so that I can pay tribute to these individuals at the next Board of Forestry meeting and in the next edition of Licensing News.



### **Paul R. Kevin Jr., RPF 184**

Paul R. Kevin Jr entered peacefully into rest in Oakland, CA on February 10, 2017. He was 88 years old. Born in San Francisco on December 15, 1928, Paul was one of five children blessed to Paul R. and Catherine (Boschert) Kevin Sr. He graduated from Bellarmine Prep School prior to earning dual Bachelor degrees for Political Science from Santa Clara University and Professional Forestry from Cal Berkeley. He also earned his Masters Real Estate Appraisal Degree. Paul had proudly served his country during the Korean Conflict and was awarded the Silver Star. He enjoyed woodworking, reading, travel and was a sports enthusiast. Paul had been a longtime parishioner of St. Felicitas Catholic Church and

dedicated many hours volunteering with St. Vincent de Paul. He was a devoted father, grandfather and friend who will be deeply missed.



### **Dr. Thomas Maness**

Dr. Thomas Maness, Dean of the College of Forestry at Oregon State University, passed away after a lengthy illness. He was 63 years old. Thomas earned his Bachelor's degree in Forest Management from West Virginia University, where he graduated magna cum laude in 1979. He earned his MS in Forest Operations at Virginia Tech in 1981. Afterwards he worked for Weyerhaeuser Company, where he served as a forest engineer in the Klamath Falls region. In 1989, Thomas earned his doctorate in Forest Economics from the University of Washington

and joined the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia, where he served for 20 years. He joined OSU's College of Forestry in 2009. Prior to his appointment as dean, he was head of the Department of Forest Engineering, Resources and Management at OSU's College of Forestry, where he was responsible for the professional forest management and engineering degree programs. Under Dr. Maness' leadership, the OSU College of Forestry was ranked number two in the world by the Center for World University Rankings. In a letter posted on the school's website, acting dean Anthony Davis described Maness as a "true visionary" who helped propel the college into a globally recognized leader in forestry.

## **Outreach for Future RPFs**

Outreach is an increasingly important part of my job duties here at the Board. This year has been a good one in this regard as I have received word from Professors at HSU that their enrollment for their FOR 210 course has increased from a low of 28 students in the 2012/13 school year to 92 students enrolled in 2018/19. It is good to see these numbers spring up and I hope to provide more outreach presentations to forestry students at the three core forestry programs at California universities and the numerous community college programs this coming fall.

In March this year, I had the opportunity to provide outreach presentations to LA County fire personnel, and the Pomona and Los Angeles sections of the California Conservation Corps. There was a great diversity of those in attendance, from LA County forestry personnel who have prepared numerous fuel reduction proposals under CEQA to 18-year-old CCC members who clear trails and improve habitat. All had many questions and were excited about the prospects that their work would qualify for experience that could eventually allow them to take the RPF exam and become licensed in forestry. There are not many environmental professions that allow a "journeyman" approach to becoming qualified for licensure and I could sense optimism in the room especially with the younger CCC members. As might be expected, understanding of the commercial aspects of forestry was limited with no sawmills or commercial forestry operations south of the Grapevine. In consideration of this, I am working to coordinate a combined exam prep and commercial forestry field seminar in southern California on Cal Fire's Mountain Home Demonstration Forest. This would provide an excellent opportunity for southern California resource protection professionals who are close to meeting the exam qualifications to prepare for the examination while experiencing field forestry duties relating to mensuration, harvest unit layout, watercourse protections and development of Timber Harvesting Plans (THP). It may even include a



sawmill tour to tie together the commercial utilization and renewability of the resource. The primary challenge will be the availability of attendees since southern California fire seasons are trending later into the year and there are no guarantees we will not be experiencing fire season into December. Be that as it may, we are tentatively scheduled for the following:

**November 29 & 30, 2018 - Southern Region Exam Prep and Field Forestry seminar, Mountain Home Demonstration Forest**

**November 26, 2018 - CLFA Exam Prep Seminar, Granzellas Hotel, Williams California**

I look forward to any opportunity to provide outreach to expand the roster of Registered Professional Foresters. If you are an educator in the natural sciences in high school or college and are interested in scheduling an outreach presentation, feel free to contact me. I am also open to suggestions from the registry. Call the Office of Foresters Registration 916-653-8031 or email me at [dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov](mailto:dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov).

## **Disciplinary Actions Report**

Since the last issue of the Licensing News, no new complaints have been filed and one case has been closed as follows:

**CASE NUMBER:**

**332**

**ALLEGATIONS:**

It is alleged that the RPF failed to submit a Notice of Timber Operations (NTO) and a letter of Technical Assistance (TA) for Northern Spotted Owl prior to operations per the requirements of the approved NTMP. Additionally, the RPF failed to submit amendments in a timely manner on a second NTMP. An investigation of the complaint has been completed and a recommendation was prepared by the Executive Officer to the Board on behalf of the PFEC.

**AUTHORITY:**

The Professional Foresters Examination Committee (PFEC) found there was evidence of negligence in the actions of the RPF but that there was no evidence of gross negligence under Title 14, PRC 778 (b) or regulations PRC 1612.1 (b). The RPF received a Confidential Letter of Reprimand from the Board. The issuance of a private reprimand does not prohibit the board from

using the subject of the private reprimand in an accusation, within the statute of limitations, seeking suspension or revocation resulting from a subsequent complaint, to establish a pattern of lesser failures of professional responsibility. Case 332 is now closed

## Meetings of Interest and Special Announcements

### PFEC Meeting Date

The next PFEC meeting is scheduled for August 23, 2018. The public is free to attend open session meetings in person. Agendas and other information can be found 10 days prior to the meeting date at the link below:

[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.

The Board's next meeting is scheduled for August 21 and 22<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento, CA at the Resources Building. The full Board meeting is on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The remaining 2018 Board meeting schedule has been set and can be viewed online at the following web link:

[http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board\\_business/](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board_business/)

## Redwoods in Spain

[http://articles.latimes.com/1992-03-03/news/mn-3101\\_1\\_columbus-grove](http://articles.latimes.com/1992-03-03/news/mn-3101_1_columbus-grove)  
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/102nd-congress/house-joint-resolution/529>

In late 2017, I received a call from a gentleman who was trying to contact an RPF who assisted him in the acquisition of redwood seedlings for a planting project in Spain. I thought the story quite interesting and investigated further to



find that this project involved the planting in December, 1992, of 500 redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) in the Galician region of Spain as a commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christopher Columbus's world-changing voyage of 1492. The project was memorialized in a Joint Resolution of the two houses of the 102nd Congress, Second Session (H.J.Res.529) and signed by then President George H. W. Bush. The resolution officially made the 500 redwood trees, which the Simpson Timber Company donated, a gift from

the people of the United States to the people of Spain.

Inspired to find out more, I called the gentlemen, Dr. John McElroy, Professor Emeritus from the University of Arizona, in search of more details about the plantings and to hear more about his return visit to Spain on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the project.

The planting of the Columbus Grove, better known as the “bosque de Colon” in Galicia, occurred on a rainy day in December 1992 and involved much fan fare and ceremony in Spain. Professor McElroy, his wife Onryia, Simpson forester Johnathan Rae and his family, and several “Columbus Kids” from various parts of the country were received by the son of the then King of Spain, Juan Carlos de Borbon, at the Palace of Zarzuela near Madrid.



The “Columbus kids”, Dr. McElroy and his wife at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration

Later, the group was met by the the 32<sup>nd</sup> descendent of Christopher Columbus, the Duke of Veragua, who threw a large party for the approximateley forty American visitors who made the long trip bringing new world trees back to old world Spain. The two and a half acre property to be planted was donated by the people of the community of Montes de poio in the region of Galicia.

In April 2018, Professor McElroy and several of the Coumbus Kids returned to Poio to veiw the trees and to participate in the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the planting. Of the orignal 500 redwoods planted, 480 remain growing today and measure up to 40 feet in height.



The bosque de Colon near Poio, Spain



Dr. McElroy at 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Columbus Grove.



I would like to thank Dr. McElroy and his wife, Dr. Onyria Herrera Diaz, for taking the time to share with me their story and for their vision to create a "living tribute" between the United States and Spain by planting new world trees in old world soil.

For more about this story please view the links to the 1992 LA Times article and House Resolution from the 102<sup>nd</sup> congress, see the links above.

Dr. McElroy and his wife are received by the President of the Junta de Galacia in Parliament in 2018.



## Emeritus Forester

With the continuing discussion of renewal fee increases to fund the registration of RPFs and CRMs, the California Licensed Forester Association (CLFA) has submitted a proposal to the Professional Foresters Examination Committee (PFEC). The CLFA proposal would create a new class of forester to address the large percentage of retired foresters (23%) who maintain their registration without withdrawal. The proposal would ease the burden of a proposed 82% increase in bi-annual renewal fees and enable all RPFs with over 25 years' experience to conduct business under a limited license that would allow for *"teaching, influencing policy, grant applications, prescribed fire, forest mensuration and professional advice including aspiring foresters work under an RPF."*

Per the CLFA proposal:

*"In order to recognize distinguished RPFs, incentivize these individuals to maintain their license and help keep the licensing fee at a reasonable price, the CLFA would like to propose an emeritus limited license for RPFs. The license would require individuals to be in good standing with the PFEC and to have practiced forestry for a minimum of 25 years as an RPF. The limited license would prohibit the RPF from signing or participating in the review of any commercial timber harvesting documents. The license would be provided at a reduced rate of the full RPF license rate (\$190 bi-annually, rather than the proposed \$350).*

*We hope that this type of license would encourage experienced RPFs to maintain a limited license and stay involved in the forestry profession; this license could also be seen as a distinguished class of RPFs.*

Some regulatory considerations include:

*(a) The board may issue, upon an application prescribed by the board and payment of a fee not to exceed one- hundred dollars (\$190), an emeritus limited license (registration), to a Registered Professional Forester who has been licensed by the board for a minimum of 25 years and who holds a license that is not suspended, revoked, or otherwise disciplined, or subject to pending discipline under this chapter.*

*(b) The holder of an emeritus limited license issued pursuant to this section shall not engage in any state harvesting permit for which requires a Registered Professional Forester to sign their name and RPF Number thereto. A RPF holding an emeritus limited license shall be permitted to use the titles "retired forester," and/or "professional forester, emeritus."*

*(c) The holder of an emeritus limited license shall be required to renew this emeritus limited license bi- annually.*

*(d) In order for the holder of an emeritus limited license issued pursuant to this section to restore his or her license to active status, he or she shall back pay the full license fee for the duration of time he or she was emeritus limited RPF and submit an application to the board who shall determine if the individuals license is not suspended, revoked, or otherwise disciplined, or subject to pending discipline under this chapter prior to approval.”*

I have prepared an Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) for the increase in renewal fees and an Emeritus limited license. Once reviewed by the PFEC and the Board, then approved for forwarding to OAL, written comments may be sent to via facsimile at the following phone number (916) 653-0989 or delivered via e-mail at the following address: [PublicComments@BOF.ca.gov](mailto:PublicComments@BOF.ca.gov). It is anticipated the ISOR will be reviewed and sent to OAL no earlier then after the September Board meeting.

## **A win-win for spotted owls and forest management**

October 4, 2017, [UC Davis](#)

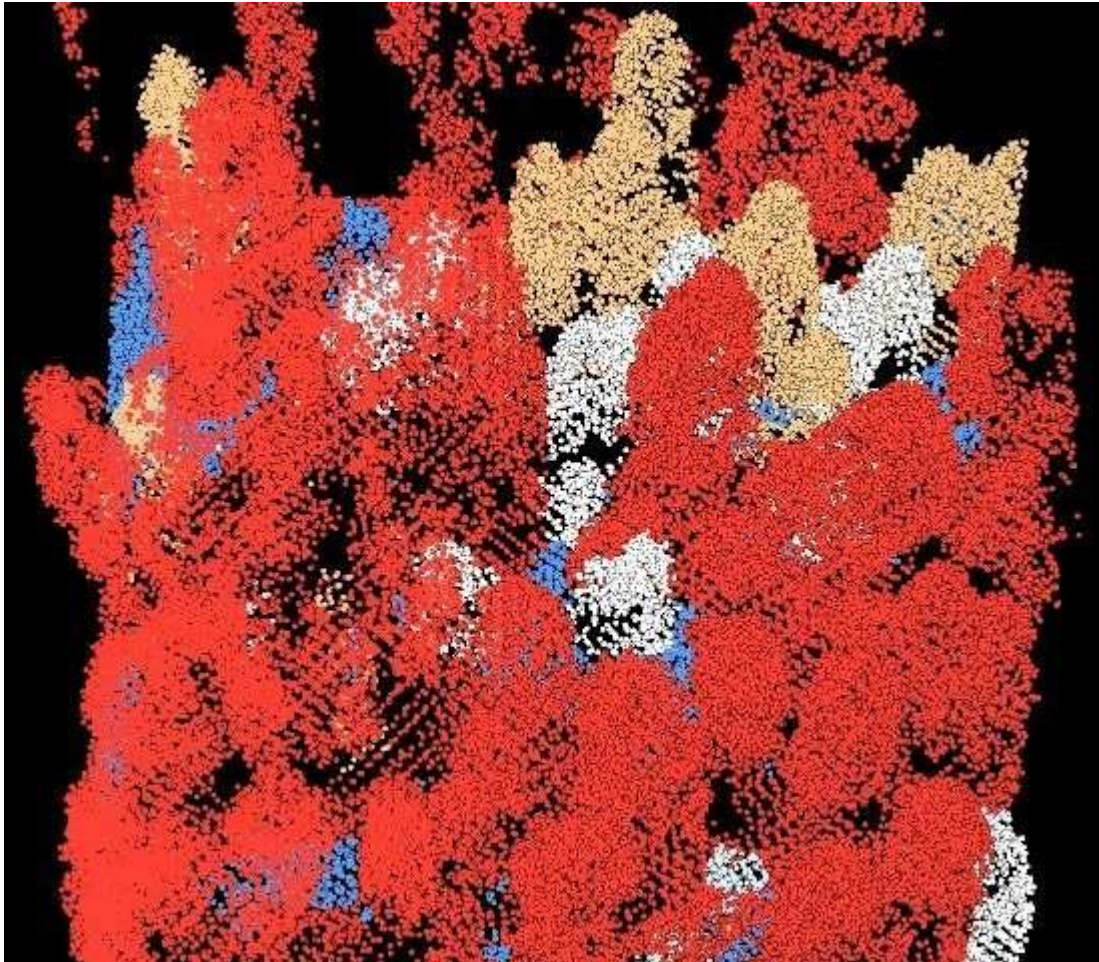
Remote sensing technology has detected what could be a win for both spotted owls and forestry management, according to a study led by the University of California, Davis, the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station and the University of Washington.

For 25 years, many forests in the western United States have been managed to protect habitat for endangered and threatened spotted owls. A central tenet of that management has been to promote and retain more than 70 percent of the forest [canopy](#) cover. However, dense levels of canopy cover leave forests prone to wildfires and can lead to large tree mortality during droughts.



In the study, published in the journal *Forest Ecology and Management*, scientists found that cover in tall [trees](#) is the key habitat requirement for spotted owl—not total canopy cover. It indicated that spotted owls largely avoid cover created by stands of shorter trees.

"This could fundamentally resolve the management problem because it would allow for reducing small tree density, through fire and thinning," said lead author Malcolm North, a research forest ecologist with UC Davis' John Muir Institute of the Environment and the USDA Pacific Southwest Research Station. "We've been losing the large trees, particularly in these extreme wildfire and high drought-mortality events. This is a way to protect more large tree habitat, which is what the owls want, in a way that makes the forest more resilient to these increasing stressors that are becoming more intense with climate change."



Researchers used LiDAR imaging, such as this point cloud representing good habitat for spotted owls, to determine that tall trees rather than total tree cover are most important for spotted owls. Credit: Jonathan Kane/University of Washington

### **Measuring a million acres**

The previous tree canopy guidelines were largely drawn from past studies showing that spotted owls were more prevalent in forests with 70 percent or

higher tree canopy cover. But those studies could not distinguish whether the presence of tall trees or high canopy cover were more important to the owl.

For this study, scientists at the University of Washington used the relatively new technology of light detection and ranging imaging, or LiDAR. The tool uses laser pulses shot from an instrument mounted in an airplane to measure a forest's canopy in detail. The study's authors used it to measure the height and distribution of tree foliage and forest gaps across 1.2 million acres of California's Sierra Nevada forests.

"Field-based studies of forests are expensive and time-consuming, which means that measurements are generally taken over areas a fraction of an acre," said co-author Van R. Kane, an assistant research professor at the University of Washington. "We believe this is the largest spotted owl study yet in terms of the area of forest examined."

The authors also used a data set collected by wildlife researchers spanning more than two decades that recorded the positions of 316 owl nests in three national forests and Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks. They found the owls seek out forests with unusually high concentrations of tall trees measuring at least 105 feet tall but preferably taller than 157 feet. These tall trees also tended to be areas with high levels of canopy cover. However, the owls appeared to be indifferent to areas with dense canopy cover from medium-height trees and avoided areas with high cover in short (less than 52 feet tall) trees.

### **What is important for owls**

"The analysis helps change the perception of what is important for owls—the canopy of tall trees rather than understory trees," said co-author and spotted owl expert R.J. Guitiérrez, a professor emeritus with the University of Minnesota. "The results do not mean a [forest](#) should be devoid of smaller trees because owls actually use some of those smaller trees for roosting. But it suggests a high density of small trees is likely not necessary to support [spotted owls](#)."

**More information:** Malcolm P. North et al. Cover of tall trees best predicts California spotted owl habitat, *Forest Ecology and Management* (2017). [DOI: 10.1016/j.foreco.2017.09.019](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2017.09.019)

**Journal reference:** [Forest Ecology and Management](#)

**Provided by:** [UC Davis](#)



## First Ever Forestry Challenge Championship Held in Tuolumne County

The top high school forestry students from throughout the state gathered recently in Pinecrest for the first-ever Forestry Challenge Championship. The Championship event was by invitation, as the top teams from the fall 2017 events were invited to participate. The event was relatively small, with 35 students from 9 schools participating. The event was April 19 to 21 at Camp Sylvester Resort, east of Sonora, California. Teams traveled from as far away as Orange County in the south to Shasta County in the north.



Above: Participants and volunteers for the Forestry Challenge Championship.



left: Forester Alex Stone helps students with field work.

Many volunteers also traveled great distances to offer guidance to the students, including the following foresters:

Alex Stone – RPF 3022

Brady Dubois

Chad Bowman

Chris Dow – RPF 3012

Chris Trott – RPF 2049

Dean Lofthus – RPF 2514

Ellen Waverly – RPF 2654

Jerry Jensen – RPF 1036

John Schmechel

Kevin Conway – RPF 2888

Kirsten Sequoia – RPF 3009

Matt Waverly – RPF 2828

Michael Pickard

Mike Albrect

Mike Garcia – RPF 1859

Rich Wade – RPF 2016

Tom Francis – RPF 2046



The students were given a complex silvicultural topic, recommending a prescription for the "Forestry Challenge Unit" within the Lyons Tract in Sierra Pacific Industries' Sonora District. After spending a day in the forest collecting data and interacting with natural resource professionals, students recommended a

prescription that would be practical, economically sound, and in compliance with the California Forest Practice Rules. During the Challenge, teams of students also completed a field test to assess their technical forestry knowledge and data collecting skills. Prior to the start of the event, most school groups toured the SPI mill in Sonora.

The results of the 2017 Forestry Challenge Championship:

<b><i>2017 Forestry Challenge Championship Results</i></b>			
<b>Place</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Total (250 possible)</b>
<b>1</b>	Sacramento New Technology High School	Sacramento	<b>207.2</b>
<b>2</b>	Shasta Charter Academy	Redding	<b>198.6</b>
<b>3</b>	Oxford Academy Team 1	Cypress (Orange County)	<b>196.9</b>
<b>4</b>	Foresthill High School	Foresthill	<b>192.3</b>
<b>5</b>	Charter Oak High School	Covina (Los Angeles County)	<b>181.9</b>
<b>6</b>	Oxford Academy Team 2	Cypress (Orange County)	<b>180.1</b>
<b>7</b>	Acalanes High School	Lafayette (Contra Costa County)	<b>172.0</b>
<b>8</b>	Grant Union High School	Sacramento	<b>170.6</b>
<b>9</b>	Franklin High School	Elk Grove (Sacramento County)	<b>170.5</b>

### **Dr. J. Keith Gilless, Board of Forestry Chair, Steps Down as Dean of UC Berkeley College of Natural Resources**



Dr. Keith Gilless, having served 11 years as Dean of the University of California Berkeley, College of Natural Resources, will step down from his post in June 2018 but will remain active with the University and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Dr. Gilless earned his B.S. in Forestry from Michigan State University and a Ph.D. in Forestry and Agricultural Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Since 1983, he has been a Professor of Forest Economics and Management at the University. He was appointed Dean in 2008 and has helped establish the UCB College of Natural

Resources as one of the premier programs in the country. He received a distinguished teaching award in 1989 and held the S.J. Hall Chair in Forest

Economics from 1996 to 2006. He was appointed Chair of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection by California Governor Jerry Brown in March of 2013.

At the Board, Chair Gillless, brings a constructive tone to discussions of complex issues, often relating his life experiences as forester and Dean to provide perspective, often inserting humor into the conversation. I'd like to congratulate Dr. Gillless for his accomplishments at UC Berkeley and I am pleased that he will continue to Chair the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection into 2019.

## **Frequently Asked Questions About Safe Harbor Agreements**

Recent discussions in the Forest Management Committee meetings have touched upon the issues related to NTMPs. One of the most difficult issues in this regard relates to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) stepping back from Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) survey and protocol review and giving the "keys" to Cal Fire to guide the protection measures on private land for this Federal and State listed species. Having been a Sierra forester most of my career, I have not been exposed much to the protocols and protections for the NSO. But I do know they take time to implement by trained people, at a substantial dollar cost and often, if not done continuously, result in lost opportunity to sell logs in preferential market conditions.

One potential remedy to the uncertainty going forward is the Safe Harbor agreement. Although not an immediate relief to the take avoidance issues facing landowners, the Safe Harbor agreement offers the potential for NTMP timberland owners in various regions of California, a way to consolidate and coordinate through the Natural Resources Conservation Service or other government organizations, and come together for programmatic Safe Harbor agreement development and funding. This would allow a consortium of timber owners the potential to share in the costs of the development of the agreement with the resulting benefit of growing and predictably harvesting timber while protecting habitat. Industrial timber owners do this in other states, why not non-industrial timber owners in California?

I asked representatives of California Forest Landowners (FLC) and California Tree Farm for their "take" on the Safe harbor agreement to learn more. The FLC members I talked to had spent two years trying to get Safe Harbor Agreements in place in California and described it as being an uphill battle. The largest obstacle being that the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) apparently does not have the staffing to handle such agreements. Additionally, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has been asked to engage in this process and they have said that they will only work on a case by case basis and will not issue a programmatic permit. Other difficulties pop up as well. If there

are other species associated with the habitat contained within an agreement, it could require a multi-species document. This adds complexity, cost and more agencies involved in the development and review.

According to FLC, there have been only two Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) Safe Harbor Agreements of the 400 or so that have been implemented nationwide. There should be more. If a regional effort can be coordinated and funded through NCRS with the support of Cal Fire and CDFW, it could result in a sound, long-term remedy to NSO issues for non-industrial timberland owners in California. Cal Fire has noted that they are trying to develop a programmatic Spotted Owl Resource Protection (SORP) plan for California timberland owners. Regulatory relief may eventually come but in a different form than that of the Safe Harbor Agreement.

The following are excerpts from a publication on safe harbor agreements by the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

### **What is a Safe Harbor agreement?**

A Safe Harbor agreement is a voluntary conservation tool for private landowners who wish to support recovery of plants and animals listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Safe Harbors are area- and species-specific agreements, though they are sometimes developed for more than one species with similar habitat needs. They also can be specific to a single property owner or multiple landowners in a certain region. For the latter, they are usually called programmatic Safe Harbor agreements.

### **What is the purpose of a Safe Harbor agreement?**

Safe Harbor agreements are just one tool for enhancing endangered species conservation on private lands (other common tools advanced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are Habitat Conservation Plans and Partners for Fish and Wildlife projects). Safe Harbor agreements can contribute significantly to the recovery of Endangered Species Act-listed species. The most common threat to listed species is habitat loss and degradation. More than two-thirds of all listed species in the country spend all or part of their lives on privately owned land.

### **How do Safe Harbor agreements work?**

Under the program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with a landowner (along with other partners to the Safe Harbor agreement) to identify "baseline habitat conditions" for the property he or she wishes to enroll. The Fish and Wildlife Service and landowner develop a management plan for the enrolled property, allowing for mutually agreed-upon uses that ultimately provide a "net conservation benefit" to the listed species.

In exchange for the landowner's commitment to those conservation measures, the Fish and Wildlife Service provides formal assurance that the landowner will not be restricted from the uses identified in the management plan if the listed species is attracted to the enrolled property as a result of improved habitat conditions (though the landowner must maintain at least the baseline habitat conditions). This means that some incidental take of individual listed species may potentially occur in return for the long-term conservation benefit to the species overall. The Fish and Wildlife Service carefully considers the potential level of incidental take when making the "net conservation benefit" determination at the onset of the agreement. Toward the end of the agreement term, the landowner has the option of continuing their conservation measures on the enrolled land, returning it to baseline conditions that existed at the beginning of the agreement, or anything in between.

### **Who is eligible to enroll in a Safe Harbor agreement?**

Any non-federal landowner can be a party to a Safe Harbor agreement. Existing agreements involve individual families, states, state agencies, tribes, county agencies, conservation organizations, businesses, and universities. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service often implements a Safe Harbor agreement in partnership with another government agency or organization that works directly with landowners on a local basis.

### **How long do Safe Harbor agreements last?**

Safe Harbor agreements have different durations, such as 10, 25, 50, or even 100 years, depending on the amount of time required to achieve conservation benefits for the particular species and habitat covered. A Safe Harbor agreement also can be renewed for as long as the landowner and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service mutually agree.

### **What happens if land enrolled in a Safe Harbor agreement is sold or ownership is transferred? Does the agreement go with the sale or transfer?**

If a landowner proposes to sell or give away lands enrolled in a Safe Harbor agreement, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can allow the agreement and associated permit to continue to be in effect, providing the new owner agrees to become a party to the original agreement.

### **How many Safe Harbor agreements are there?**

Since the first Safe Harbor agreement was signed in 1995, more than 400 landowners in 23 states and one U.S. territory have enrolled more than 4.3 million acres in 80 Safe Harbor agreements, benefitting 75 species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

*Information provided by the Natural Resource Conservation Service*