

Licensing News

Office of Professional Foresters Registration



**WINTER 2019
VOLUME 31 - ISSUE 2**

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, Retired)
Mr. Dan Sendek – 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)
Mr. James Hawkins - RPF (Industry)
Mr. Frank Mulhair – RPF (Industry)
Mr. Christian Eggleton – RPF (Consultant)
VACANT – (Public Member)

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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)
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)
Mr. Christopher Chase (Timber Industry Representative)
One Public Representative position remains unfilled

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The View from the 15th Floor *by Dan Stapleton, Asst. Executive Officer*

The year 2019 will soon pass and the end of the decade will be upon us. There is so much to reflect upon and be thankful for this holiday season, but the relative “tameness” of the fire season cannot be overlooked as one of the biggest blessings. So far in 2019, wildland fires in the SRA impacted only 129,000 acres compared to 789,000 acres last year and with only three reported deaths, as compared to 103 fatalities in 2018. Additionally, only 526 structures were destroyed in 2019 compared to 22,704 in 2018. The Board continues its efforts to implement the CalVTP so that fuel reduction treatments can be efficiently applied where necessary to help protect human life, communities and infrastructure as well as valuable soil, air, water, wildlife and timber resources.

Other blessings are in the eye of the beholder. In November the USFWS proposed listing the Pacific Fisher as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act but exempted fuel reduction and forest management activities that meet certain criteria from the ESA rules. This undoubtedly will not satisfy everyone, but it is important to note that cooperation and participation by forward thinking California timberland owners helped

to get ahead of this important wildlife issue, while the concern for habitat destruction from large scale, destructive wildfires helped to influence the Service's decision. (see the USFWS press releases on page 14 below).

Additionally, the USFWS denied the petition to list the California Spotted Owl as Threatened noting "...*California spotted owls continue to inhabit their historic range, and the species is not in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, nor is it likely to become so in the foreseeable future.*" This is good news for many landowners in the Sierra Nevada, who through careful planning of forestry activities and maintenance of a diversity of habitat, have helped to maintain the species across the landscape.

With so many things turning in favor of forestry, the chief concern for the Office of Professional Foresters Registration is now licensing enough foresters to meet current and future demand. Last year, a survey of the RPF and CRM registry revealed that our professional ranks are skewed heavily towards those who have been practicing for 25 years or more. Forty-eight percent (48%) who responded to the survey indicated they would retire in the next ten years. This creates a huge gap in the Board's self-funded licensing registry, one that required the Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC) to recommend an increase in renewal fees to \$350 for Registered Professional Foresters and \$130 for Certified Rangeland Managers (CRM) to maintain the functions of the licensing office. These fees have not changed for over 28 years. Included with the increased renewal fees are increases in late fees and reinstatement from withdrawal fees to their statutory maximums. The challenge of implementing these fee changes is in retaining a registry of professionals with valuable experience and skill sets to help mentor a new generation of professionals. To address this, the PFEC also recommended to the Board the discounting of renewal fee increases for any Registered Professional Forester with 30 or more years in the registry to only \$250 instead of \$350. At their December 2019 meeting, the Board adopted the PFEC's recommendations for regulatory fee changes. Pending approval by the Office of Administrative Law, these changes may become effective as soon as April 1, 2020.

Other items under consideration are outreach to forestry students and professionals outside of the State of California in the hopes that we can increase our applicant numbers to take the RPF exam. In so doing, we hope to modernize the test taking experience to allow examinations on laptop computers utilizing software that could be made available to exam applicants.

With the increasing demand for RPFs for fuel reduction efforts and the projected decline of RPF registrant numbers, we are at a crossroads at the Office of Professional Foresters Registration. To echo George Johnson's perspective in this edition's *Skookum Forester* article found below, change is coming, so be ready.

PFEC Notes

The PFEC is pleased to have a new member on the committee. Mr. Christian Eggleton was recommended by the PFEC in the September 2019 meeting to fill the RPF consultant member position. The Board finalized his selection at the November Board meeting in Sacramento. He is the co-founder of Forest Resource Solutions and Technologies and has worked in the consulting field for over 9 years after graduating from UC Berkeley with a BA of Environmental Economics and Policy and a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning. The PFEC has one public member position yet to be filled. Application information can be found at the Board's website [here](#).

Snapshot in History



Photo titled "Last Chiefs Meeting of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) at Asilomar, California 1961". Left to right (seated) Ian Campbell - Dept. of Mines and Geology, DeWitt Nelson - Director DNR, Ed Dolder - Deputy Director DNR, Loc Richards - Small Craft and Harbors, Charles DeTurk - Beaches and Parks, Francis Raymond - Forestry, (Standing left to right) Elmer Aldrich - Recreation, Ed Musser - Oil and Gas, Ernest Aronstein - Accounting, Art Dorsey - Soil Conservation.

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS & CERTIFIED RANGELAND MANAGERS

The table below indicates the known status of all current and former registrants by license type as of December 2019.

STATUS	RPF's	CRM's
Valid	1,125	87
Withdrawn	176	7
Revoked (non-payment or disciplinary action)	755	11
Voluntarily Relinquished	681	10
Suspended	1	0
Deceased	321	6
TOTAL	3,065	121

REGULATIONS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020

In 2019, the Board approved the following:

Permanent Post-Fire Recovery Exemption to assist in post fire salvage. This exemption is applicable within 300 feet of certain structures as follows: (1) Timber Operations consistent with, and within the geographic scope of, an existing valid and effective gubernatorial proclamation of a state of emergency or executive order and (2) Timber Operations necessary to remove dead or Dying Trees as a result of a “wildfire” which occurred no more than three years prior to the submission of a notice of exemption, but such Timber Operations are not consistent with, or within the geographic scope of, an existing valid and effective gubernatorial proclamation of a state of emergency or executive order.

NTMP Amendments, 2019. The Board made changes resulting from the passage of SB 901 then updated and made consistent portions of the NTMP with that of the WFMP.

Stocking and Silvicultural Amendments, 2019. The Board amended the Forest Practice Rules, modifying the point-count requirements by reducing the number of trees required for planting post-logging and establishing a revised methodology to count trees. Additionally, the Board is allowing for site specific basal area stocking levels if existing minimums could lead to reduced forest health.

“Emergency” Emergency Fuel Hazard Reduction Amendments, 2019. The Board used emergency rulemaking to make several changes to the regulatory language in the Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction under Title 14 CCR 1052.4.

A list with links to 2019 approved regulation is located [here](#).

REGULATION FILES

Regulation files are now available at the Board website [here](#). If you require archived material, please email [Eric Hedge](mailto:Eric.Hedge@bof.ca.gov), Regulations Program Manager.

RPF and CRM Examination Announcements

The April 2020 examination has been scheduled for April 3rd, 2020 and the deadline for NEW applications will be February 7th, 2020. The October 2020 Examination has been scheduled for October 2nd, 2020 and the deadline for NEW applications for that exam is August 7th, 2020. The [examination notices](#) can be located online on the Professional Forester Registration webpage.

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

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 so that I can pay tribute to these individuals at the next Board of Forestry meeting and in the next edition of Licensing News.

Hazel Jackson

Hazel graduated from high school in Drummond, Montana in 1965 and received a business school degree from Deer Lodge Montana in 1966. Shortly after school she chose to start a new career and personal life in Northern California where she married a forester named Pat Jackson. Hazel was the executive director for the California Licensed Forester Association for many years which allowed her to make many forestry friends and gave her the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. on their behalf. Hazel was renowned for her loyalty and her great administrative skills both of which served to make California Licensed Forester Association a force in the natural resource field during her tenure.



Richard Fores, RPF #214

Richard Bennett "Dick" Fores, 88, of Gold Run, California passed away in his home on Friday, August 23, 2019. Dick was born July 15, 1931 in Boise. He grew up in Windsor and Santa Rosa, California and graduated from Santa Rosa High School. After attending Santa Rosa Junior College and University of Idaho, Moscow, Dick enlisted in the United States Army, served in the First Cavalry Division and

participated in extensive combat operations in the Korean War from 1951 to 1953.



He majored in Forestry at Cal and was a career forester with the United States Forest Service. He was an expert in fire management and subtropical forestry. Later, he started his own business, The Environmental Concern, and continued to provide land management expertise and guidance to local businesses and individuals. He had a gift for bringing diverse people and organizations together to solve problems. Above all, he loved the woods and was happiest sitting around a campfire solving the problems of the world.

Dr. Bill Sise, RPF #1214



Dr. William "Bill" Sise passed away earlier this year. Bill was a long time Professor of Forest Economics at Humboldt State University (HSU). HSU Range Resources Professor, Dr. Kenneth Fulgham, recalls "Bill was the consummate teacher, not so much a scholar in publishing, but knew his materials to bring into the classroom. He was also the Master of Organized Chaos with the piles of paperwork in his office. But, he knew where your paper was and could retrieve it for you. He always

advocated for forestry and range management to be together from the onset in the mid-1960s. He was a clear supporter of combining Forestry with Rangeland Resources Sciences (range and soils) into the current title of Forestry & Wildland Resources".

Dr. John Bell

John Frederick Bell, 95, of Corvallis died Saturday, November 16, 2019.



He was born on January 7, 1924 in Ashland, Oregon and graduated from Ashland High School in 1942. He served in 10th Mountain Division during World War II. Trained in the Ski Troops in Colorado and served in the Philippines. He received a Bachelor of Forestry from Oregon State University in 1949, his Masters of Forest Economics from Duke University in 1951 and his PhD in Forestry from University of Michigan in 1970. John was Professor of Forest Management at Oregon State University and a Consulting Forester. John received Fellow Award from the Society of American Foresters, Outstanding Alumni Award

from College of Forestry, and Lifetime Achievement Award from Oregon Society of American Forestry. John served as Chairman of Benton County Republicans. Most foresters are familiar with John because of his book, Log Scaling and Timber Cruising, which he co-authored with J.R Dilworth in 1949.

Outreach for Future RPFs by Dan Stapleton

This year, I have made outreach trips to Cal Poly, Humboldt State, College of the Redwoods, Cabrillo College, Shasta College, Yreka High School and to CCCs

in Redding and Chico. I enjoy reaching out to young folks about forestry as a career choice and I am delighted that forestry is becoming the focus to developing new curriculum at community colleges in California, particularly as it relates to wildland fire. I am prepared to tailor my presentations to all potentially interested groups from high school to university level students, to Boys and Girl Scouts, to the CCCs or FFA. Please help me to pass the word about careers in forestry and send me any suggestions you may have about groups who may be interested in hearing about career development and opportunities in the forestry field. Call the Office of Foresters Registration 916-653-8031 or email me at dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov.

Disciplinary Actions Report

Since the last issue of the Licensing News, two new complaints are being investigated by the EO and one case was resolved as follows:

CASE NUMBER: 335

ALLEGATIONS:

It is alleged that from 2017 through 2018 the RPF on numerous occasions did not sufficiently survey for and protect archaeological resources on numerous Emergency Notices.

AUTHORITY:

The Executive Officer investigated the complaint for violations under PRC 778(b).

FINDINGS:

The PFEC found that the respondent was guilty of Gross Negligence in the performance of their duties as RPF on six Emergency Notices. A stipulated settlement between the RPF respondent and the Board of Forestry was adopted in closed session on November 6, 2019. The stipulated settlement suspends the respondent's license for 60 days followed by one year of probation. During probation the respondent must comply with the Forest Practice and related rules and provide at least three archaeological work products to a professional archaeologist for review prior to the end of probation. The respondent must inform their clientele in writing of their suspension and must have their work product reviewed by a Board approved supervisory RPF prior to CAL FIRE submission. All the respondent's work product will be reviewed by the Executive Officer of Foresters Licensing bi-annually. The respondent must also enroll in and complete an archaeological refresher course prior to the end of probation.



SKOOKUM FORESTER

GEORGE JOHNSON

I asked George Johnson to be our "Skookum Forester" contributor for the 2019 Winter Edition of Licensing News.

George is retired but remains active in professional groups and has proctored numerous RPF exams for several years now in Eureka. In this article, he offers his thoughts on the future of California forestry and advice to new registrants. DS

Dan Stapleton, Assistant Executive Officer for Foresters Licensing, began his new Skookum Forester column in the last Licensing News with a strong interview of Ralph Osterling, a widely known and respected consulting forester. Unfortunately, Dan ran off the tracks by selecting me, George Johnson, to represent the community of "wise and seasoned" retired foresters for the second installment of Skookum Forester. I am a bit weather beaten, which may fulfill the seasoning promised in Dan's introduction, but the wisdom will have to be earned by you, dear reader, in learning from my missteps and misjudgments made over a long, varied but highly enjoyed career. I will begin with a biography and reflection on the changes in the practice of forestry that have occurred over the course of my career.

Born in 1946 in Sacramento, I was raised on a small farm in Fresno County and became convinced at a very early age that a career hoeing and picking cotton was not for me. I completed my lower division college work at Reedley Junior College, then transferred to what was then Humboldt State College where I completed my BS in forest management just in time to face the first significant post-WW II timber depression. I missed the military draft and Viet Nam by a lucky draw in the draft lottery and spent three years traveling the U.S. inspecting natural gas and water pipeline systems for leakage with a company based in Massachusetts. When the timber economy improved, I returned to California and spent two years working as a certified log scaler, first on the Sierra National Forest, then on the Plumas National Forest. At that time there were literally hundreds of sawmills in the west competing for national forest timber and log scalers were in demand. Every log coming off national forest land, and most logs from private land, were individually tallied and scaled. I then accepted a position as a Timberlands Forester for the Masonite Corporation in Ukiah in December 1972 (I'll come back to this shortly). Masonite began downsizing and reorganizing in an unsuccessful attempt to avoid being taken over by others, and my position was eliminated after two years. I then went to work for Philo Lumber Company, a small outfit with two sawmills in Mendocino County, as a log buyer/plan preparer/logging supervisor. It was while with Philo Lumber that I completed my experience requirement to take the foresters exam and I became RPF #1786. By early 1979 it became apparent to me that the company

was failing financially, and I took the big leap into the unknown by setting out on my own as a consulting forester. The next eight years allowed me to hone my existing skill set and develop additional skills in the areas of small business management, timber land appraisal, timber taxation and federal contracting. It was a fun and rewarding time, but at the end of it, I was ready to accept a job offer from the from the Timber Tax Division of the CA State Board of Equalization in Eureka as an Associate Timberlands Appraiser. I decided to leave that position after being notified that continued employment with the Timber Tax Division would likely require me to move to Sacramento, which really wasn't very enticing. I now believe that the Timber Tax Division has been folded into the Property Taxes Division and no longer exists as an independent agency. I then sought and secured a position as a Forester I in Fortuna, from which I retired nearly 12 years later as a Forester II.

OK, I now see that I have just offered Lesson One of a typical professional career--any career. Anticipate diversions, distractions and detours. They will happen, and they will offer new opportunities. I know very few people in any field who have successfully taken a position following their education and remained there until retirement. There certainly are some who have managed that, and if that has been their intention, then I take my hat off my bald head and salute them. They deserve a complement for a job well done, and congratulations for having had the good fortune of stability, but that is not the path many of us will be able to follow.

Now I want to get to the core of what I wish to address, which is technical, social, professional and legal changes that have occurred in our profession over my time in it, and perhaps putting you on notice that these will continue through your career also, and thus make you better prepared to influence (and perhaps lead) some of those changes.

I said I was going to get back to my hiring by the Masonite Corp. in December 1972, so here's the story. Remember this was before the Z'Berg-Nejedly Forest Practices Act and the subsequent Professional Foresters Law. I came to the office and was introduced to the logging supervisor, with whom I was to spend the day. There was not a truck available for me, so I rode out to the logging operation with the supervisor. It was raining when we arrived, where there were a couple of dozers constructing landings on flats adjacent to flowing streams, and several chain saws could be heard on the hill sides above, falling timber. I was informed that this logging job was just getting started, and it was to be my responsibility to oversee it. I was taken along the road to points on either side of the current activity and told that from those points on the road and up to the ridge above would be the area of the harvest plan. As no one had had the time to flag the boundaries, that would be my first job. It turned out to be a couple hundred acres in size. When the job was completed, I needed to hustle back to the landing sites and begin flagging skid roads for the dozers, bearing in mind that skidding uphill was hard work and expensive, so I'd be well advised to make sure I kept the trails in the draws and near the creeks. The supervisor handed me a box of flagging

and told me he'd be back at the landing at the end of the day to take me back to the office.

The next day began with me being introduced to timber harvest plan preparation. Notice this is after the start of logging--all the better to know just where the project is, right? It was a two-page state form (sure wish I had kept a blank copy, just for reference!), one side being a listing of all the men and equipment at the job in the event they would be needed to be called by the (then) Division of Forestry for fire duty. The second page was a grid on which I was to map the logging area and show the roads to the site. No rush, though, it was raining, and the state inspector wouldn't need to be out there until the spring. In the meantime, I had to be out checking the fallers' log lengths and tracking the volume of logs coming off each Assessor's Parcel within the harvest area. This was prior to the establishment of the yield tax, so the *ad valorem* tax was applied to the value of the timber standing on each parcel. If we harvested at least 80% of the commercial timber off any specific Assessor's Parcel, we wouldn't have to pay the annual tax on the remaining timber.

In the middle of this, I made a great impression on the logging boss because I found a "lost" dozer. It was the practice to leave one dozer at the top of the job every night and have to operator walk down to the landing to go home. The idea was that if it rained during the night, that cat skinner would walk up to his machine and then blade off the mud on the skid trails going downhill, so the other dozers could then get to work. One night, the assigned cat skinner, who was mad at the logging boss, went to a bar where he met a buddy who offered him a job with another company, which he promptly accepted. But where was the dozer? Nobody knew, and the operator wasn't available, and probably wouldn't be able to tell even if he was, due to laughing so hard at the joke he had played. Fortunately, it hadn't rained the previous night and the job continued. A couple of days later I came across the dozer and took an operator up to bring it down to the landing. The logging boss and I remained good friends for years after that incident.

So, what's the point of this? The point is that just during my career we have made a quantum technological leap in how we manage the forested landscape, and there is a lot more to come. Reread the previous paragraph and see how many technical violations you come up with by today's rules. Us old timers might say that we've done enough (some reading this missive have heard me say before that "90% of the good to be done has already been done by getting the equipment out of the creeks and getting control of the roads."), but the fact is that as demand for forest products continues to grow, and as society's demand for the protection of non-commercial values continues to grow, there will be a LOT of pressure for change. If we don't respond to it, the change will be imposed on us anyway and it is quite likely that without the professional forestry community's input and leadership, those changes will be misguided and ineffective. Worse, if the larger community sees that we, as the professionals, are not in a

leadership role, we run the risk of being ineffective, and by extension, irrelevant. Change is coming, so be ready.

OK, I've written about professional change, based on my personal experience, technical change, again based on only one aspect of it that I have experienced, and in addition I've touched on how social changes will certainly impose changes on our profession. There is not room to elaborate here on any of these issues, let alone even list the specific ones that I haven't mentioned. You can do that on your own time and choose the topics where you believe you can make a difference.

Now let's move on to education. When I got my start, it was all about getting the logs out of the woods as inexpensively as possible. We considered water courses primarily as impediments to moving logs. No thought was given to what those water courses contained or if those unidentified "things" had any value. Slope instability was considered primarily from the perspective of how much time and how much equipment would be required to overcome it. Fire was evaluated as either an insurance risk or a threat to our product, being an existential threat to global society, let alone its effect on the possibility of climate change, wasn't even a consideration. I expect most of you reading this were exposed to formal training on these topics, regardless of your political views on them, rather than just picking it up on the street. Archaeology is now a continuing education requirement for most foresters, yet I can remember when there were some who would run to sites they either discovered themselves or learned about on the job in order to "see what they could get." Urban planning is now a major concern in many areas as population pressures grow. RPFs on private lands are frequently confronted by proposals to develop adjacent parcels and consider the impacts those developments will have on their future management practices. RPFs in the public sector are confronted with accepting or rejecting negative declarations and/or environmental reports that will have long term effects on timberland management--and how does that square with practices that may have been going on for a century or more on the parcels now being affected?

In summary, if you look at the old logging conference journals, you will see constant references to how the public just doesn't understand that any practice that affects the bottom line cannot be accepted because it will ruin profits and we will all go home broke. I am not so foolish as to suggest that profit doesn't matter, because it does. But we have to look at the project as one that will be profitable for everyone, or in the long run it will not succeed. That is what I see as the core issue for forestry today. Interestingly, as I write this, I realize that it was the same issue when I started out. It's just that now we are much more aware of the consequences, but we have a greater array of tools to tackle the problem with.

Thanks George for sharing! DS

Federal Scientists Determine ESA Protection Not Required for California Spotted Owl *USFWS Press Release November 7, 2019*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced it has thoroughly reviewed the status of the California spotted owl and concluded it does not require protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Through consultation with experts, reviewing site surveys and examining scientific literature, the Service determined that California spotted owls continue to inhabit their historic range, and the species is not in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, nor is it likely to become so in the foreseeable future.

The California spotted owl is found throughout the Sierra Nevada, in some areas of coastal and Southern California, and Baja California, Mexico. The owl lives in older forests, nesting in tree cavities and hunting for flying squirrels and other rodents that live in the forest understory. Most of the land inhabited by California spotted owls is managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Sierra Pacific Industries.

Although listing is not necessary, the Service is actively working with its partners to conserve California spotted owl habitat. Catastrophic wildfire is one of the biggest risks to California spotted owl. To reduce this risk, the Service worked with Sierra Pacific Industries and the U.S. Forest Service to develop coordinated, multi-party fire risk reduction efforts that include the removal of brush and select trees that fuel fires in owl habitat. Implementation of these plans could help improve California spotted owl habitat in the coming years.

Service Proposes Endangered Species Act Protections for the West Coast Distinct Population Segment of Fisher

USFWS Press Release, November 6, 2019

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to list the West Coast Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of fisher as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This revised proposed rule is based on the best scientific and commercial data available for the species.

The fisher is a member of the weasel family and resides in mixed conifer-hardwood forests in southern Oregon and California. The species once occurred throughout much of Canada and the northeastern and western United States, however, various stressors including, wildfire, drought, tree diseases, vehicle mortality, predation and exposure to toxins has led to the species' decline.

If finalized, an ESA listing would help protect the West Coast DPS of fishers against harm or "take." Recognizing that certain management activities benefit the species and are necessary for public safety, the Service is using flexibilities inherent in the ESA to

propose a special rule that would exempt certain forest management activities from the act's take prohibitions. Activities proposed for exemption include maintenance of existing fuel breaks, firefighting and habitat management.

The proposal to list the West Coast DPS of fisher was published in the *Federal Register* on November 7, 2019. The publication will open a 30-day public comment period. The Service is considering comments from all interested parties received by December 9, 2019.

Guidelines to Avoid Incidental Take of Northern Spotted Owls from Timber Operations: Update to Attachments A & B

From USFWS PowerPoint by Bob Carey, John Hunter and Dan Cox, October 2019

Attachments A and B were produced to help landowners, foresters, and others navigate the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). They are guidelines and are not a requirement. They represent a "standardized" approach that can be navigated relatively quickly through the THP process. These guidelines are likely not the only way that take can be avoided, but it may be the quickest way to avoid take in the development of a THP. If take cannot be avoided, there are other tools to help you (e.g. habitat conservation plans).



Early coordination is encouraged as these are only guidelines, one size does not fit all and does not cover every scenario. You should work with all relevant agencies to customize your situation. The revisions to attachments A&B are responsive to input received from stakeholders over the years and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) plans for future revisions to attachments A and B to be more frequent based on the input they receive.

Attachment A covers the range of the coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) in California.

Attachment B covers inland from the occurrence of coast redwood in California. Both attachments are used in the CAL FIRE Coast Forest District depending on the presence of redwood.

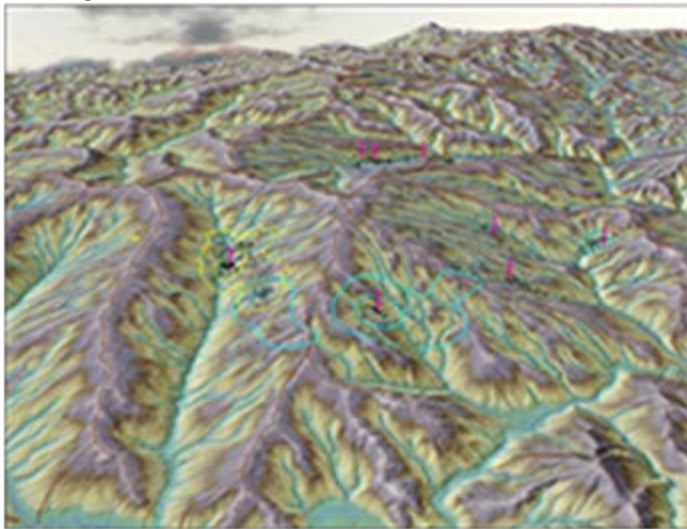
A brief history on Attachment A and B:

- On February 1, 2008, the Service provided attachments A and B to CAL FIRE to help private landowners avoid unauthorized take of Northern Spotted Owl (NSO). This guidance was general and could be applied when site-specific data was not available.

- On May 22, 2008, the Service provided clarification that finer scale, site-specific evaluation for projects is more effective than coarse scale evaluations.
- On February 7, 2011, the Service released the revised 2011 NSO Survey Protocol. The updated protocol accounted for barred owls.
- On January 9, 2012 the Service revised of the 2011 Protocol (minor technical edits and clarifications).
- The Service released updated versions of attachments A and B in November. The updates will provide more flexibility and options based on what we have learned about managing NSO.

Many aspects of **revised Attachment A** are unchanged including the basic definitions. There are minor clarifications including the minimum polygon size of 20 acres and the listing of some of the factors that can be considered when evaluating noise disturbance. Also, Spot Checks can now be utilized through years 5 and 6 for project areas with good survey history and the number of survey visits may be relaxed if barred owls are absent.

General Core Area Guidelines are mostly unchanged and are suited for even-age management. There is a 100 acre no-cut core with an additional 100 acres maintained



as nesting/roosting, and 300 acres maintained for foraging habitat or better within 0.7 miles of activity center. Alternative Core Guidelines are an attempt to encourage better NSO habitat management while providing relief to landowners.

For uneven age management, all harvest within 0.7 miles of an activity center must maintain high-quality nesting/roosting with a 40 acre no-cut core area. Review agencies will evaluate the success of this option

and adjust as needed.

There is a Noise Disturbance buffer of 0.25 miles or you can use the Estimating the Effects of Auditory and Visual Disturbance to NSO and MAMU (Marbled Murrelet) document.

The USFWS hopes to be more responsive in the future with respect to edits to Attachment A, email John Hunter (email below) with comments/edits for next version.

The Service recognizes that NSO surveys have been conducted in some areas for many years. In such cases, the information gathered may be used to more effectively

conserve spotted owls and provide certainty to project proponents. To conserve NSO, the best habitat should be maintained, closest to activity centers (AC) that are frequently occupied by successfully reproducing NSO.

Revised Attachment B emphasizes the use of high quality, site-specific information to make no-take determinations. Data presented in THPs must be clear, complete, and biologically accurate. Flexibility in the survey protocol may be allowed for some areas when justified.

What has changed, what has not changed. Examples of using site-specific data are presented. This includes the delineation of non-circular home ranges. However, the approach from the previous version of Attachment B may still be used if data is lacking.

Habitat definitions have not changed. Home ranges and core use areas represented by 1.3 mile and 0.5-mile radius circles may still be the best method to ensure adequate amounts of NSO habitat are retained and take is avoided.

This is a data driven process including information-based Take Avoidance, AC location, Core Use Area delineation, and Home Range delineation. Non-circular home ranges based on logical owl use areas may be used when robust survey data is available. Additionally, abiotic variables may be important so working with all affected forest managers is essential. Circular home ranges may be more appropriate in some cases.

New changes include flexibility in the protocol, use of spot check surveys beyond year 4 (based on previous or continuous surveys), number of survey visits: 3 vs 6 visits where no barred owl (BDOW) have been detected, and project footprint surveys when habitat will be maintained (vs. 1.3 miles). Revised Attachments A and B have been sent to CAL FIRE and workshops are planned to explain these attachments to project proponents. The updated Attachments A & B will be in effect immediately, but if you have an approved THP or one that is nearly approved, you can continue to use the old guidance. The USFWS contacts are as follows:

Contacts:

Attachment A

[John E Hunter@fws.gov](mailto:John_E_Hunter@fws.gov)

Attachment B

[Robert Carey@fws.gov](mailto:Robert_Carey@fws.gov)

Meetings of Interest and Special Announcements

PFEC Meeting Date

The next PFEC meeting is tentatively scheduled for the last week in February 2020. 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: <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/board-committees/professional-foresters-examining-committee-pfec/>

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Meeting Dates.

The Board's next meeting is scheduled for January 21 and 22, 2020 in Sacramento, CA at the Resources Building. The full Board meeting is on the 22nd. The remaining 2020 Board meeting schedule has been set and can be viewed online at the following web link: <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/business/meeting-agendas-and-annual-schedules/>

The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Posthumously Presents the Francis H. Raymond Award for Excellence in Forestry to Geri Bergen.

Geri Bergen, former Tahoe National Forest Supervisor, was posthumously awarded the Francis H. Raymond Award by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) on November 6, 2019. This award is given to the individual, organization, agency, or company who has contributed the most to the management of California's natural resources. Criteria include volunteer participation and achievements reached as a professional.

Throughout Bergen's life, she was recognized as 'the first woman' - in her professional schooling, career promotions, and professional organizations. She attended the



University of California, Berkeley as it was the only forestry school that accepted women, and she was the first woman to attend Forestry Camp at Cal after receiving the Dean's permission to attend. She began her career with the Forest Service in 1967 in the Pacific Southwest Regional Office. She was the first woman promoted to a line officer position as the Deputy Forest Supervisor of the Tahoe National Forest in 1978. In 1985, she

was selected as the first woman Forest Supervisor in the Nation and continued her work in the Tahoe National Forest. She was the first woman in the Society of American Foresters (SAF) to become Fellow and was one of the first two women to be elected to the SAF Council. She was also one of the first women to become a California Registered Professional Forester and later served on the Professional Licensing Committee.





Left to right: Board members Darcy Wheelles, Susan Husari, and Rich Wade. Geri's daughter Kathy Schermerhorn, Board member Mike Jani, Board Chair Dr. Keith Gillless, Board members Katie Delbar, and Christopher Chase

Bergen was nominated for this award by the California State Society of American Foresters. At the award ceremony in Sacramento, Bergen's daughter Kathy Schermerhorn accepted the award on behalf of her mother. Bruce Van Zee, former Tahoe National Forest Staff Officer and member of the Society of American Foresters, gave a presentation highlighting Bergen's career and achievements. Board Chair Keith Gillless provided a stirring tribute to her and Board Member Rich Wade later stated, "It was a lovely and touching ceremony highlighting Geri's strengths and trailblazing accomplishments."

Bergen simply loved being outdoors. Her fondness for nature helped spur the direction of her career and she continued that admiration and care in her daily living after retirement. She spent many hours in her forested yard, making sure it was fire resistant, tending to the plants and trees, and watching the birds and squirrels nosh on treats she provided to them. She loved walking her dog Jenna along the canals and forested trails of Nevada County.

In a recollection Bergen wrote for the SAF, "One's Woman's Journey," she stated, "It was a great career. I was fortunate to have many opportunities to prove myself and my abilities and to savor the rewards of my efforts. In both my career and my professional accomplishments, I feel I really did achieve my goal of being a practicing conservationist."

Geri Bergen passed away October 12, 2018. As the first woman line officer in the Forest Service, she must have found satisfaction in seeing women rise to the level of Regional Forester and to the head of the agency as Chief.

CalVTP Updates

A public hearing on the Final Draft CalVTP took place on December 11 where the Board considered additional public comment. The Board will continue discussion at a Board meeting scheduled for Monday, December 30, to further consider information received from the public. The agenda for the upcoming meeting will be posted on the Board's website. Board agendas and meeting dates for 2020 can be found [here](#).

RPFs should be aware of various roles proposed in the Final Draft of the CalVTP now under consideration by the Board. RPF roles can be found throughout Chapter 2 of the document as they relate to specific Standard Project Requirements (SPRs) under the following broad categories:

- Biological resources
- Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resource Standard Project Requirements
- Hydrology and Water Quality Standard Project Requirements

You can find the most current version of the Final Draft CalVTP and a complete list of RPF Roles under [Appendix PD-3 - Project Specific Analysis](#) at the Board website located at this link:

<https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/calvtp/>

Word search the PDF document for the acronym "RPF" to view the related RPF roles.

Happy
Holidays!