

Licensing News

Office of Professional Foresters Registration



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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. Frank Mulhair, Chair – RPF (Industry Member)
Mr. William Snyder, Vice Chair – RPF (Government Member, Retired)
Mr. Christian Eggleton – RPF (Consultant member)
Mr. Larry Forero – CRM (Certified Specialty)
Mr. James Hawkins – RPF (Industry Member)
Ms. Danielle Lindler – RPF (Industry Member)
Mr. Jason Poburko – RPF (Government member)
Mr. Dan Sendek – RPF (Public Member, Retired)
Ms. Yana Valachovic – RPF (Government Member)
VACANT – (Public Member, Board of Forestry)

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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 Gilless, Chair (Public Representative)
Mr. Christopher Chase (Industry Representative)
Ms. Katie Delbar (Range/Livestock Representative)
Ms. Elizabeth Forsburg (Public Representative)
Mr. Mike Jani (Industry Representative)
Mr. J Lopez (Public Representative)
Mr. Richard Wade (Industry Representative)
Ms. Dawn Blake (Public Representative)
VACANT (Public Representative)

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Board Staff Additions



Marcie Yates started her career with the state in 2006 with the Secretary of State's Office as a Program Technician. Within her career she has worked for a variety of state agencies and began with CAL FIRE in 2019 with MEU Finance, transitioning to the Behavior Health and Wellness Program at the end of 2020 as an AGPA. Prior to working for the state, she was an Event Coordinator for 8 years.

Her career has brought extensive experience in many areas but mostly the ability to navigate state processes and regulation. Holding an Associate of Science in Business Management, an Associate of Arts in Psychology, she is currently pursuing her

bachelor's degree in Industrial Psychology to fulfill her desire to learn and grow. Marcie resides in Mendocino County with her husband of 24 years, together they have 2 daughters and 3 granddaughters. Her hobbies include traveling, yoga, hiking, reading and photography.

The View from the 10th Floor

by Dan Stapleton, Asst. Executive Officer



It is with great pleasure that I am able to reprint George "YG" Gentry's acceptance speech from the Board's November 8, 2023 presentation of the Francis H. Raymond Award. This speech was also printed in the CLFA newsletter. I am happy to provide it here for those who are not currently CLFA members. Myself, I am not a CLFA member, but I am a forester who doubles in the role of Licensing News editor twice a year. I find YG's words about cohorts and symmetry much more interesting and thought provoking than anything I could muster. Enjoy.

My personal goals for success have not changed since an early age. I knew that I wanted to be a husband, a father, and a professional forester. In 1985, I became a professional forester, in 1987, I became a husband, and in 1989 I became a father.

Here I would like to note the person who has been at my side throughout these events, my wife Lesley. Lesley, you have been my foundation, and I want to acknowledge here your support in supporting me as I spent nights away, relocating to Sacramento, managing the myriad details that are necessary for a family to exist. We can be justifiably proud of our two boys, Geoff and Jonathan, who have grown into fine young men due to your efforts. Nothing would be achieved without your love and forbearance.

Today we must acknowledge Francis Raymond. Mr. Raymond was the essential component necessary for establishing professional forestry in California. His career in the Department covered forty years, including 15 as the Director, but after that time he did not stop in his support and advocacy for professional forestry. Representing both the Association of Consulting Foresters and the Society of American Foresters, he spearheaded the effort that led to the recognition of forestry as a profession. We owe him a debt for all he accomplished in our name.

There is a symmetry here I would like to share. Here before me is a Western Union Telegram. It sits in my home office as a talisman. It states:

"Would you be interested in forestry assistant position. Term four months. Pay \$286. Signed FH Raymond"

My father, however, upon graduation, had taken employment with the Pacific Lumber Company and with his wife and one month old daughter, was in the process of relocating to Scotia. I reflect on the fact that Mr. Raymond offered this job to my father, and now 70 years later his son comes before you to discuss an award named in Mr. Raymond's honor. It is symmetry.

The establishment of the profession, it should be noted, was in large part as a consumer protection act. It was to thwart grifters from taking advantage of landowners, and charlatans from giving advice that was not based in the principles of forestry. Foresters have not only a responsibility to manage lands to the best of their ability, but there are consequences for the failure to do so.

The profession of forestry is an ecosystem, not unlike the ecosystems we are trained to manage. We have our cohorts, each succeeding the next.

I will now read some names- some you will know, some you will not. George I. Gentry, Bernie Agrons, Bob Kleiner, Niel Gilliam, Fred Green, Dean Solinsky, George Craig, and Fred Landenburger, a close family friend whose job with the California Forest Protective Association I now currently have. Again, symmetry. Jere Melo, John Miles, Bill Beaty, Doug Ferrier, and Jack Sweeley whose mother and my grandmother were classmates at University of Maryland nursing school, yet another symmetry.

All of these names have something in common- these were all my mentors, they were all Registered Professional Foresters, and they were my friends. And now, they are no longer with us. But I hear their voices, remember their wisdom and it is as fresh in my mind as they day it was imparted.

I also note that several of these names are recipients of the Raymond Award.

They represent the past- but the knowledge they imparted is as true today as it was then. My gratitude to them is profound and deep and I hear that wisdom with every fiber of my being. These were the individuals who established professional forestry both in deed and practice.

To all the current foresters- my peers and colleagues- you represent the present. I have learned so much from all of you. Your insights have helped me and guided me over the course of my own career, and I never cease to amaze over the knowledge you have generously imparted. I hope that I have, at least in some small way, reciprocated that kindness- and if not, then at least made you smile. To you too, I am deeply indebted.

To all the people I've met through my little seminar, and to those who we were but now have elevated to Registered Professional Forester, you continue to amaze me. You represent the future. You come from disparate backgrounds, with different types of job

responsibilities, and that diversity greatly heartens and enriches me. From you too, I have learned a great deal, and I owe you my thanks as well.

I remember the day in 1985 when I received my little envelope with my examination results. The first word I saw was "Congratulations". I remember how that felt, and how grateful I was. As you each successfully complete the exam, I get to live vicariously through you- to feel that elation, that sense of accomplishment one more time. For a brief moment, it is 1985 again.

A forester is a trained professional in ecosystems and ecology. We are trained in the art of silviculture and developing stands from inception. We plant trees whose shade we will never know. So too, the development of our profession. We must invest in the future of the profession, to continue the effort begun so long ago.

I don't feel like I deserve this recognition. I see myself as a simple vessel, a conduit. A conduit that conveys the information among the cohorts. From the past, through the present, and to the future. We have great profession, and one I am proud of. Our importance as a profession has never been more critical. But it is interconnected, relying on each of us. I see this recognition today as one for the profession. On behalf of that profession- its past, its present, its future- Thank you.

George YG Gentry, 2023 Francis H. Raymond Award winner

YTD Wildfire Statistics (CAL FIRE & Federal)

Updated as of December 18, 2023

Interval	Fires	Acres
2023 Combined YTD	6,999	322,774
2022 Combined, Year End Total	7,490	362,455
2021 Combined, Year End Total	8,835	2,568,948

Snapshot in History



Francis H. Raymond kneeling second from left, and his associates. No date or caption was provided on the original photo.

Lifelong Forester Committed to Forest Health and Mentoring the Next Generation Wins Award for Outstanding Contributions to California Forestry **By Katie Harrell, Board Staff**

California Forestry Association (Calforests) Senior Vice President George Gentry is the recipient of this year's Francis H. Raymond Award. Presented by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) to George at their November 8 meeting, this award is bestowed to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the management of California's natural resources. Criteria includes volunteer participation and achievements reached as a professional.

“The Board is very pleased to honor George for his lifelong dedication and love for forests and the forestry profession. His knowledge and expertise have been a true asset to the Board, industry, and policymakers throughout the years. He is a champion for forest health and a true resource for future generations interested in entering the field,” said Board Chair Keith Gilliss.



Known today as YG (“Young Growth”) by colleagues, George gained his nickname after joining his father’s forestry consulting business to differentiate between them as they shared the same name. It was there that YG decided to become a forester and went on to Humboldt State University to earn his degree in Forest Production. After obtaining his degree in 1983, YG continued to work alongside his father as a partner in appraising, forest inventory and

developing Timber Harvest Plans (THP) and management plans for timberland owners throughout California.

YG accepted a position with the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) in 2002 as the Board’s Assistant Executive Officer and Executive Officer of Foresters Licensing. A year later he was promoted to the Executive Officer of the Board where he served for 12 years. During his tenure with the Board, he worked on issues such as assisting the Board in developing a Strategic Fire Plan, regulations conserving anadromous salmonids, State Responsibility Area fees, and the Forest Carbon Inventory program. He served on the Board’s Monitoring Study Group and Effectiveness Monitoring Committee. He also served on the Climate Interagency Forestry Working Group, the Fire Plan Steering Committee, the Jackson Advisory Group, and the Board of Equalization Timber Tax Advisory Committee.

In 2015 YG accepted the position of Calforests Vice President, promoting to Senior Vice President in 2018. Here he has taken on the role of Calforests’ regulatory affairs expert for the state. He works on policy development within Calforests and he was instrumental in the passage of SB901, helping to develop state policy that would increase the pace and scale of forest fuel hazard reduction work. He has also served as Co-Chair for the Wildfire and Forest Resilience working group addressing permit synchronization, and he participates in several California Licensed Forester Association (CLFA) committees, such as Forest Practice, Water and Wildlife, Education, and Legislative Committees. Most recently he has accepted an Advisory Council role with the Board’s Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation.



Mentorship and giving back through volunteer work have been priorities for YG throughout his career. He mentors Calforests' interns and has served as a member and President of CLFA since acquiring his Registered Professional Forester (RFP) license in 1985. He has also been a member of the Society of American Foresters since 1983. He has taught at the CalPoly Swanton Pacific Ranch forestry program and has been a licensed RPF exam preparation instructor since 2002 and exam grader since 2018. He has also organized workshops over the last 20 years for CLFA on topics such as ethics, geology, silviculture, THP preparation, road location and design, archaeology, timber harvest in sensitive areas, business practices, long-term management planning, growth projection and harvest scheduling, cumulative impacts, growth and yield models, spotted owl management, and site preparation and erosion control.

The "Francis H. Raymond Award for Outstanding Contributions to California Forestry" is named for Francis H. Raymond, Director of Cal Fire from 1953 to 1970. Mr. Raymond was one of the primary advocates for the passage of the Professional Foresters Law in 1973. Since 1987 the award has been given to groups or individuals who have achieved excellence in forestry in California.

Meetings of Interest and Special Announcements

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Meeting Dates.

The Board's next meeting is scheduled for January 23 through 24, 2024 in Sacramento, California. Board meeting schedule dates can be found at this [link](#). The public may sign up for webinars at the Board of Forestry website [homepage](#) at <https://bof.fire.ca.gov>. You can use this link to also view agendas and other information for the Board and for the advisory committees listed below. Agendas can be found 10 days prior to the meeting date at the homepage link under [Business](#).

Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC) - The next PFEC meeting is tentatively planned for Friday, January 19, 2024.

Current PFEC priorities include:

- Apprentice Registered Forester – The PFEC will continue discussions about an alternate pathway for licensing examinations. The proposal would mirror the Board's Specialty Certificate program in that a professional society or state agency could propose for certification by the Board an educational program that focuses on RPF mentorship and forestry core competencies. The student of such a program would be allowed to take a core competency examination prior to achieving full qualification (PRC 769) for licensing. It is believed that this would put more forestry graduates on a career path towards registration earlier in the RPF qualification process which, as you know, requires seven years of qualifying forestry experience, three of which are under the supervision of an RPF and demonstrate increasing responsibility and complexity. Following successful examination on core competencies, the applicant can achieve full licensing by passing an abbreviated exam after year seven focusing on applied knowledge which will be equivalent to Part II of the current RPF examination.
- Qualifying forestry work experience – This is priority #5 for the PFEC. The proposal would allow arboriculture to be a qualifying forestry work experience only when conducted on forested landscapes for forest protection purposes but would limit the qualifying experience to only two years and RPF supervisors would not be allowed. The review of this item has now expanded to include review of all qualifying forestry work experiences listed under 14 CCR 1621.1 at the PFEC's request.

More information about this advisory committee to the Board can be found [HERE](#).

Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC)

The RMAC is a statutorily created (Public Resources Code [PRC] §§ 741) advisory committee that advises the Board and other state agencies (CalEPA, CDFA, and CNRA) on rangeland resource issues across the state. The RMAC offers an annual educational series that is open to the public and organizations throughout the state; provides a platform for discussion and exploration of rangeland resource issues in California on both public and private lands; and facilitates collaborations and partnerships to support sustainable rangeland management in California.

The RMAC is currently developing the program for the **2024 Annual Educational Series** workshops and will release workshop details as they are confirmed. In collaboration with the California Forester's Association and other professional forestry organizations, the RMAC is planning to develop a collaborative workshop training opportunity in 2024 for forestry and rangeland professionals working in oak woodlands. Keep an eye on the [RMAC webpage](#) for event announcements, and email Kristina.Wolf@bof.ca.gov to join the RMAC mailing list and keep informed on upcoming range events.

RMAC members and staff joined representatives from U.C. Cooperative Extension and the Air Resources Board to present a 45-min panel session—**Adaptive Management: Prescribed Grazing and Burns**—on the interactive application of prescribed grazing and burning for fuels and vegetation management at the inaugural **California Wildfire Conference** Oct 24 – 26 at the Ronald Reagan Library in Simi Valley. Recordings of all sessions can be found [online](#).

RMAC members and staff will conduct a 1hr-40m symposium at the upcoming 77th Annual Society for Range Management Annual Meeting in Sparks, NV. This panel symposium—Putting Prescribed/Targeted Grazing to Work on Rangelands and Forests at the Landscape-Level in the Western U.S. and Beyond—will include four main sessions on the history, applications, and future of prescribed grazing alone or in combination with other fuels treatment activities. Speakers and panelists represent U.C. Cooperative Extension, state agencies, the Board, private industry, and research and academia, and hail from across California, Idaho, Minnesota, and Saskatchewan, Canada.

The Board certified the California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management's (CalPac-SRM) independent program as protecting the public interest in accordance with PRC §§ 762 and 772 and 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) §§ 1650 and 1651. Certification by CalPac-SRM qualifies an individual for a state CRM license without further examination subject to payment of licensing fees. Two individuals passed the recent Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM) exam offered in April 2023: **Genoa Starrs and Michaelyn "Mikie" McDonnell**. Two additional individuals took the exam offered in October 2023, and results will be announced January 24, 2024 at the Board of Forestry Meeting.

Efforts to support grazing planning, access, implementation, and monitoring on rangelands and associated ecosystems are ongoing. The RMAC is in the process of finalizing a grazing agreement ('license') form and associate Grazing Management Plan template, along with a Guidance Booklet, to assist and guide land managers, agencies, and livestock graziers in the development and implementation of grazing projects on State lands and beyond. The RMAC will also produce sample grazing agreements and management plans to serve as complete examples for the use of these documents. The RMAC has also produced an informational pamphlet on Prescribed Herbivory for Fuels Reduction, and awaits the Board and CAL FIRE's direction for the next steps in publication and dissemination of this information to accompany [CAL FIRE guidance on fuels reduction](#). Lastly, the RMAC has partnered with the Targeted Grazing committee of the California Wool Growers' Association to conduct a comprehensive update of the [2015 Prescribed Herbivory](#) white paper, and to develop a stand-alone Technical Guide on Prescribed Herbivory in California, and expects to have drafts ready for review by early to mid-2024.

Several presentations were given at RMAC meetings in the summer and fall of 2023 to provide information to guide land manager and agency actions. Recordings and/or presentations for these speakers, and those from previous meetings, may be accessed on the RMAC webpage, or by emailing Kristina.Wolf@bof.ca.gov:

- Jessica Leonard of the **State Water Resources Control Board** provided a detailed presentation on regulations around livestock and water quality across the different California regions, providing range managers with information about local considerations in their areas.
- Rich Walker of CAL FIRE's **Forest and Resource Assessment Program** (FRAP) provided an update on the status of the report, which is produced on an approximately 7-year cycle and is likely to be released in 2024. This report summarizes critical information and tools for landowners, agencies, fire management organizations, and policy development.
- Danielle Ruiz of the **California Department of Transportation (CalTrans)** summarized the challenges, goals, and potential actions for broadening the use of prescribed grazing along roadsides to reduce fine fuels and mitigate fire risk.

The next meeting of the RMAC will occur in Sacramento on January 16th, 2024 and interested individuals and organizations may attend in person or virtually: [REGISTER HERE](#). The RMAC will be reviewing up to four membership seats on the committee, determining the direction of the 2024 RMAC Annual Priorities, and approving the 2023 RMAC Annual Report and Workplan.

More information about this advisory committee to the Board can be found [HERE](#).

Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC)

The Board formed the EMC in 2014 to develop and implement a monitoring program to provide an active feedback loop to policymakers, managers, agencies, and the public as to the impact and effectiveness of state regulations in California's timberland ecosystems, including watershed and wildlife concerns. Effectiveness monitoring is necessary to assess whether management practices are achieving the resource goals and objectives set forth in the California Forest Practice Act (Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973, California PRC § 4511–4630.2 [2021]) and Forest Practice Rules (FPRs) and related natural resource protection statutes and laws, codes, and regulations, including the California Endangered Species Act (ESA), federal ESA, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act, federal Clean Water Act, and Fish and Game Code. The EMC collectively refers to these as the 'FPRs and associated regulations' and evaluates their effectiveness by utilizing research results stemming from EMC-supported research.

The EMC is allocated \$425,000 from the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund, which funds EMC-supported research projects, and is directed by AB 1492 to develop ecological performance measures for state and private forestland management. Findings are presented in a formal Adaptive Management process to inform the Board on future policy development. This process provides the basis for decision-making and facilitating adaptation to changing circumstances and unexpected outcomes in dynamic ecosystems. The EMC met twice in the latter half of 2024 to review Project Proposals, and voted to fund one project in the 2023/24 Fiscal Year—[Pre- and Post-Harvest Fuel Loads and Implications for Site Productivity](#)—and one additional project is pending a vote at the first meeting of 2024: [Assessing Fire Hazard, Risk, and Post Fire Recovery for Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones and riparian areas of California](#).

The next EMC Request for Proposals will open in Spring 2024, and the EMC expects to have \$969,595 over three years in funding available for newly proposed projects starting in 2023/24, comprising \$220,524 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023/24; \$324,071 in FY 2024/25; and \$425,000 in FY 2025/26.

The EMC conducted a meeting and field tour at Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest in Middletown, to showcase past and ongoing EMC-supported research and associated Forest Resource and Assessment Program research, including slash management and salvage logging impacts, bark beetle and *Heterobasidion* infestations, and considerations for post-fire tree survival, sediment management, and logging. Meeting materials are available on the EMC webpage (link below). Email Kristina.Wolf@bof.ca.gov to join the EMC mailing list, or to obtain meeting recordings or speaker presentations and materials.

More information about this advisory committee to the Board can be found [HERE](#).

Joint Institute of Wood Products Innovation

The Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation (Institute) researches near-term wood product concepts to promote highest end uses for California forest wood and biomass. By identifying new wood and biomass products and supporting existing related markets in the state, California can more effectively support the increased pace and scale of forest restoration activities, sequester carbon in long-lived wood products, and support rural economies.

This winter the Institute's [Forest Biomass Pile Data Collection](#) report (and associated [Appendices](#)), produced by Clere, Inc and the Spatial Informatics Group, was approved by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection at their December 6th meeting and can be found online. The report quantifies the number of forest biomass piles in the state that accumulated from 2018 – 2021, including the area treated to create a given pile; composition, volume, and locations of the piles; and the planned vs actual fate of each pile. It also provides an inventory of forest biomass pile material potentially available for wood and biomass utilization.

More information about this advisory committee can be found [HERE](#).

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 we can pay tribute to these individuals.



Edward A. Tunheim, RPF #79

Ed was born and raised in Vallejo, CA. He attended San Jose St. and later U.C. Berkeley where he majored in forestry. Upon his graduation in 1958 he spent the summer working in the White Mountains of Arizona cruising timber on the San Carlos Reservation. Later in 1958 Ed went to work with James Greig whom he had met while attending Berkeley. Ed was a stoic Norwegian forester who hated the cold. A winter of scaling timber on a frozen Forest Service log landing outside of Truckee will do that to one. Following that cold winter, Jim and Ed began working for small landowners in the more tropical Santa Cruz mountains. They began working for families, small landowners, and municipalities who owned lands and wanted them restored following the post-war logging boom which was done in the Santa Cruz Mountains. They ran planting crews and thinning crews, helping to restore a lot of these cut over lands back into productive forest lands. Along the way, log prices went from \$4/1,000 bd ft to \$10 and then \$50. More and more landowners were

able to manage their lands and build inventories for the future. Ed and Jim worked together until 1982 when the economy fell in response to global pressures and oil markets. Ed formed Ed Tunheim Consulting Forester and operated out of both Santa Cruz and Sonoma County until his retirement in 2011. Many of their former clients' lands today are now parks due in part to the fact they were managed probably too well and too close to Bay Area communities whose real-estate values put too much pressure on these landowners to continue. El Corte Madera Creek Preserve, Purisma Creek Redwood Preserve, San Vicente Redwoods, Loc Lomond Reservoir and Grove of Old Trees are just a few of the lands that they restored, managed, and then watched as they were turned into parks, as hard pill to swallow.

In 1985 one of their long-term clients approached Ed to purchase a 500-acre tract of land in Sonoma Co. They purchased it and made it their living workshop; showcasing different methods and ideas to fellow landowners who wanted to see things somewhere else before doing it on their lands. That 500 acres has had tours from state politicians, various state agencies, local county officials, visiting foreign foresters, scientists, film crews, many different homeowners' associations and landowner groups, and anyone who wanted to talk with Ed about the forest. The forest was named the Forest Stewardship Guilds Model Forest Award, and it was also named Tree Farm of the Year by the California Tree Farmers. Much to the horror of his wife, when the Meyer's Fire broke out nearby in 2020, Ed decided to stay behind and if the fire came, he was going to pull up a chair and watch it all go. We spent much of the day filling drip cans, chainsaw, and piss pumps, finding flares and making sure the gates were all open so Ed wouldn't go up as well. The fire never got there luckily. In retirement, Ed would spend his days as he put it "puttering" in his forest, pruning saw or shovel in hand, watching his trees grow. You always knew Ed had looked at your map because there was a coffee cup stain on it which mysteriously appeared. He believed water rusted one's pipes.

In 2004, Ed was named the Society of American Foresters Outstanding Field Forester and in 2011, he was recognized by his peers and named CLFA's Forester of the Year. National Geographic writer Mike Fay discussed Ed and his philosophy in his 2009 Redwood Transect articles. In the article, Mike had the following to say:

"People like Jim Able, Jim Greig, and Ed Tunheim who have found a way to bring vigor back to this ecosystem – and stay in business at the same time. What they're learning, and how they're applying that knowledge, can serve as the blueprint for the entire redwood region."

Partners they were in their business philosophy, as was in stewardship of their land they loved, they shared in their passing on the same date, December 5th, 5 years apart. Ed Tunheim and James Greig were and are linked for all of us to learn from.

To hear Ed in his own words from the SAF Oral History Project [HERE](#).



Kenneth Melvin Vroman, RPF #938

August 08, 1932 - September 22, 2023

Kenneth Melvin Vroman, 91, peacefully passed away Friday, September 22, 2023, at Vineyard Heights, McMinnville Oregon. He is survived by his wife of 72 years Patricia Louise Vroman, his three sons Michael Troy Vroman and Carla Vroman of Sonora CA. Steven Mark Vroman and Susan Vroman of Rickreall OR, and Kenneth Scott Vroman and Katie Vroman of Newbury Park CA. His three grandchildren, Casey Tesauro, Hunter Vroman, and Sydney Vroman and his three great grandchildren, Noble, Alora & Cosette Tesauro. The

later born a day after his passing.

Kenneth was born August 8th, 1932, to Melvin and Helen Vroman of Woodbine Iowa. Like so many others, the family sold their farm in 1937 during the great depression and moved to greener pastures in Springfield Oregon. It was in the Mohawk Valley that Ken would receive his education. Growing up he would hear the repetitive whine of the sawmill and the smell of fresh cut Douglas fir. It was the sights and sounds of a booming timber industry that caught his attention. By the time Ken reached the end of high school he had his sights set on a college degree in Forest Management. He also had his sights set on something else.

Shortly after graduating from high school Ken married his first love and high school sweetheart, Patricia Louise Wyant. The two began their life together on December 21, 1951. They enjoyed a long endearing marriage together taking life's challenges in stride and raising three boys. The two were inseparable and Patricia was there seventy-two years later by his side when he passed.

Ken was a true conservationist at heart dedicating his life to managing forests in United States and abroad. After graduating from Oregon State University in 1961 he moved to Stirling City, California to start his career working for the Diamond Match Company. Ken went on to work at the California State Board of Equalization where he contributed to the penning and implementation of the Timber Tax Reform Act of 1976. The capstone of Ken's career was a partnership in the consulting firm Mason Bruce and Girard. He joined the firm in 1978 working out of their Redding California office. His expertise afforded him the opportunity to work on projects not only in the US but the Netherlands, Japan, and Siberia. In 1983 Ken and Patricia returned to Oregon moving back to Portland where he continued work at MBG, until he retired.

Kenneth was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather who had a

warm and inviting personality. He loved his boys and dedicated much for his spare time volunteering. All three boys followed his footsteps and became foresters. Whatever the boys were doing he would be doing, be it Scouts, Little League or Church, Ken would be involved. He loved the outdoors and passed his respect and reverence for them to his boys. Together they enjoyed hunting, fishing, skiing and whatever else they could do outdoors. He will be sorely missed and was loved dearly by all who knew him.

Steve J. Sayers, RPF #1695, passed away on August 15, 2017, at the Northern Arizona VA Hospice in Prescott, as a result of the progression of Liposarcoma with which he was diagnosed in August 2013. He was 71 years of age. Steve was born on June 16, 1946, in Elmhurst, Illinois. After high school he moved to Flagstaff, Arizona, where he earned a bachelor's degree in forestry from Northern Arizona University. After college, Steve served in the Vietnam War. After service in the military, Steve met his wife, Pat, in Flagstaff, and they married in June 1973. Steve moved to California to begin his career with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). He relocated to Kelseyville when he became manager of Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest on Cobb Mountain. He managed the forest until his retirement from CDF. Steve and his wife were residents of Kelseyville for 26 years prior to moving to Prescott. Steve enjoyed the outdoors as a bicyclist, motorcyclist, and hiker. Later in life he became a member of the Yavapai County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Dog Unit, with his dog, Lucy. Steve is survived by his wife of 44 years, Pat; son, Mark; daughter, Amanda; the rest of his family, and numerous friends. Steve was preceded in death by his parents. Steve is dearly loved, and he will be missed.

Regulatory Development

The following proposed regulation has been approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and will go into effect January 1, 2024.

Northern Spotted Owl Take Avoidance Pathways and Habitat Definition Updates, 2023 - This rule package updated regulations to reflect existing survey protocols and pathways for take avoidance of Northern Spotted Owl. The habitat definitions and standards for take avoidance now reflect those provided in the USFWS guidances from 2012 "Protocol For Surveying Proposed Management Activities That May Impact Northern Spotted Owls", the 2019 "Northern Spotted Owl Take Avoidance Analysis and Guidance for Private lands in California Attachment A: Take Avoidance Analysis- Coast Redwood Region" and the 2019 "Northern Spotted Owl Take Avoidance Analysis and Guidance for Private lands in California, Attachment B: Take Avoidance Analysis-Interior. The Forest Practice Rules now conform with the existing survey protocols and pathways for take avoidance of the NSO, providing consistency between the updated survey protocols and pathways for take avoidance of this species as described in the Forest Practice Rules and as described by the listing agencies.

Tractor Operations and Cable Yarding Amendments, 2023 - The purpose of the proposed action is to re-establish the ability for the RPF to propose an exception that allows for tractor operations in Cable Yarding areas on slopes greater than 50% where necessary to meet the objectives of 14 CCR §§ 914 [934, 954]. It seeks to establish a clear and comprehensive set of rules for the use of tractor yarding in cable areas, removing any ambiguity or confusion that may have existed previously. This would enable RPFs to propose exceptions to the limits of Tractor Operations where necessary licensed operators to carry out their activities in a more streamlined and efficient manner, while also ensuring that the relevant environmental requirements and safety considerations are met.

Maximum Sustained Production Amendments, 2023 - Current regulations related to maximum sustained production of high-quality timber products do not address the changing climate and increased risk of wildfire which cause widespread forest damage. The purpose of the proposed action is to specifically address fire protection and fire risk as factors affecting the production of timber products. The proposed action allows timberland owners to account for fire risk and increase fire protection without conflicting with the goal of maximum sustained production of high-quality timber products.

Ford Definition Amendment, 2023 - The purpose of the proposed action is to provide sub-definitions for "ford" to promote clarity as to the type of watercourse crossing in plans and to provide common vocabulary describing the crossing types that fall under the definition for "ford". The action proposed is considered a more efficient and effective regulatory scheme.

Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas Silviculture Amendments, 2023 - The regulations concerning timber harvest in Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas do not account for the changing climate and fire hazard levels, advances in silviculture, and new regulatory pathways that limit the environmental impacts of timber management. The purpose of the proposed action is to update regulations to reflect existing regulatory standards based on best scientific knowledge and management approaches. The proposed action provides Forest Practice Rules for Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas that conform to the existing framework for timber harvest while considering the natural and scenic resources that led to the designation of those areas as Special Treatment Areas.

These regulation files are available at the Board website [HERE](#). If you require other or archived material, please email [Jane Van Susteren](#), Regulations Coordinator.

CalVTP

For more information about the CalVTP, please visit the websites linked below:

- Visit the Programmatic EIR webpage (<https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/calvtp/calvtp-programmatic-eir/>) to view the Final CalVTP Programmatic EIR.
- Visit the CalVTP Database webpage (<https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/calvtp/calvtp-database/>) for data related to proposed, approved, and completed projects under the CalVTP.
- Visit the Approved Projects Environmental Documentation webpage (<https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/calvtp/environmental-documentation-for-approved-projects/>) to view the environmental documentation (e.g., Project Specific Analysis, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program) for individual CalVTP projects.
- Visit the Board's CalVTP Homepage <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/calvtp/>.

RPF and CRM Examination Announcements

The April 2024 RPF/CRM Exam Notice has been posted online and has been scheduled for Friday April 5, 2024. The deadline for NEW applications for that exam is February 2, 2024. The October 2024 RPF/CRM Exam Notice has been posted as well and is scheduled for Friday October 4, 2024. The deadline for NEW applications for that exam is August 2, 2024

The Exam Notices and information on RPF and CRM exams can be found [HERE](#). Please be advised on the exam notices, the Professional Foresters Examining Committee has determined that applicant review must follow regulations. **All new applicants must qualify by the exam application deadline** to be considered eligible to sit for the exam. No exceptions will be allowed for those who do not qualify by the application deadline even if they qualify by the examination date.

For **those who are retaking the exam**, you will need to submit an updated application consisting of your personal information including updated contact information through the preferred examination location on page one. Include any updates if you have changed jobs since the last exam application. Then sign and date the last page of the application and email as instructed below. Retake exam applications are due one month prior to the exam date. You can scan and email these documents to my Email at dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov. Those interested in taking the RPF or CRM examinations are encouraged to contact Dan Stapleton with any questions about qualifications prior to applying and mailing the exam fee. Dan may be reached at 916-767-2140 or at the above email.

Disciplinary Actions Report

Since the last issue of the Licensing News, two new complaints were received.

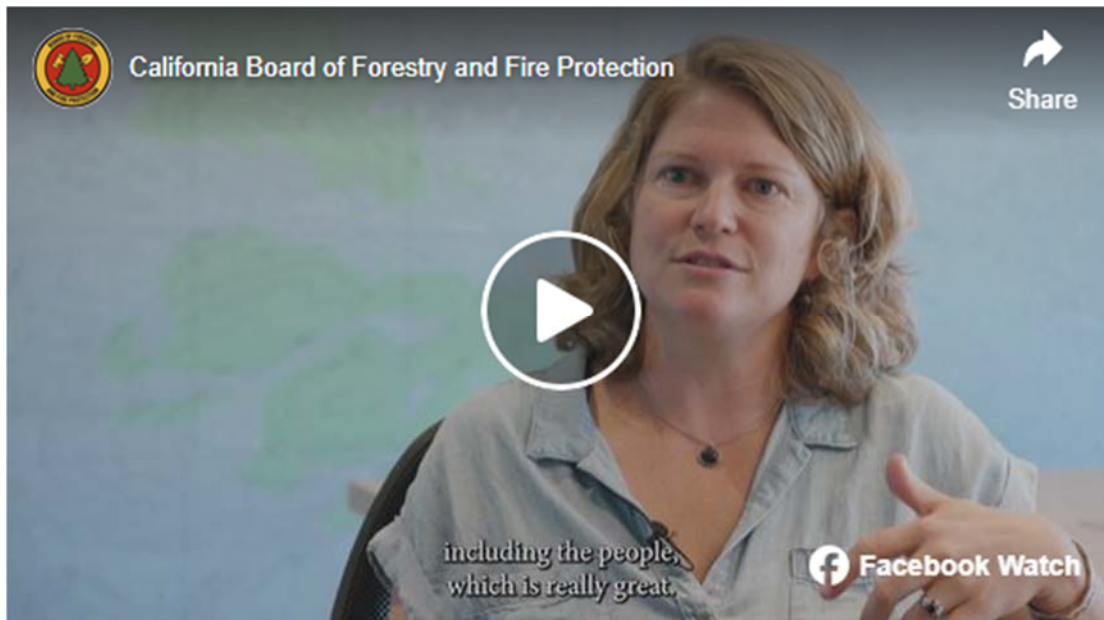
Case 347 – It was alleged that the RPF failed to identify and protect several pre-historic and historic archaeological sites, Class II and III watercourses, springs and associated unstable areas. The PFEC will continue to review this case at the January meeting.

Case 348 - It was alleged that the RPF failed in their professional responsibilities regarding less than three-acre and fire prevention exemptions. This complaint was reviewed by the PFEC and dismissed since the respondent was a supervised designee at the time of the violations and not an RPF. The complaint was also filed after the Statute of limitations to bring an accusation (PRC 776).

Outreach for Future RPFs by Dan Stapleton

I would like to thank CAL FIRE Communications for the creation and posting of our new RPF licensing promotional video on Facebook linked below. Please share widely to promote our profession here in California:

Click here>> <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=850345673311362>



In Fiscal Year 2023/24, Forestry Educators Incorporated (FEI) and the Executive Officer of the Foresters Licensing have provided in-person outreach presentations to the following institutions:

- SAF National Convention, Sacramento
- The University of British Columbia

Upcoming presentations will be planned for:

- Green River Community College
- Central Oregon State College
- Oregon State University
- Mt. Hood Community College
- Cal Poly Humboldt
- College of the Redwoods

Within California, please help me 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 Professional Foresters Registration 916-653-8031 or email me at dan.stapleton@fire.ca.gov.

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 18, 2023**. Expired licensees subsequently revoked by the Board for non-payment have one year to pay all fees to reinstate.

STATUS	RPF's	CRM's
Valid	1110	79
Withdrawn	118	9
About to Expire	0	4
Revoked (non-payment or disciplinary action)	837	22
Voluntarily Relinquished	793	14
Suspended	0	0
Deceased	358	6
TOTAL	3,216	130

Research Readings

Forest restoration and fuels reduction work: Different pathways for achieving success in the Sierra Nevada

Ecological Applications, Ecological Society of America.

Scott L. Stephens, Daniel E. Foster, John J. Battles, Alexis A. Bernal, Brandon M. Collins, Rachelle Hedges, Jason J. Moghaddas, Ariel T. Roughton, Robert A. York

Abstract

Fire suppression and past selective logging of large trees have fundamentally changed frequent-fire-adapted forests in California. The culmination of these changes produced forests that are vulnerable to catastrophic change by wildfire, drought, and bark beetles, with climate change exacerbating this vulnerability. Management options available to address this problem include mechanical treatments (Mech), prescribed fire (Fire), or combinations of these treatments (Mech + Fire). We quantify changes in forest structure and composition, fuel accumulation, modeled fire behavior, intertree competition, and economics from a 20-year forest restoration study in the northern Sierra Nevada. All three active treatments (Fire, Mech, Mech + Fire) produced forest conditions that were much more resistant to wildfire than the untreated control. The treatments that included prescribed fire (Fire, Mech + Fire) produced the lowest surface and duff fuel loads and the lowest modeled wildfire hazards. Mech produced low fire hazards beginning 7 years after the initial treatment and Mech + Fire had lower tree growth than controls. The only treatment that produced intertree competition somewhat similar to historical California mixed-conifer forests was Mech + Fire, indicating that stands under this treatment would likely be more resilient to enhanced forest stressors. While Fire reduced modeled wildfire hazard and reintroduced a fundamental ecosystem process, it was done at a net cost to the landowner. Using Mech that included mastication and restoration thinning resulted in positive revenues and was also relatively strong as an investment in reducing modeled wildfire hazard. The Mech + Fire treatment represents a compromise between the desire to sustain financial feasibility and the desire to reintroduce fire. One key component to long-term forest conservation will be continued treatments to maintain or improve the conditions from forest restoration. Many Indigenous people speak of "active stewardship" as one of the key principles in land management and this aligns well with the need for increased restoration in western US forests. If we do not use the knowledge from 20+ years of forest research and the much longer tradition of Indigenous cultural practices and knowledge, frequent-fire forests will continue to be degraded and lost.

Click [HERE](#) to view the rest of the report.

Interventions to restore wildfire-altered forests in California

USDA Forest Service, General Technical Report, PSW-GTR-278

Jonathan W. Long, Dana Walsh, Michelle Coppoletta, Ryan E. Tompkins, Marc D. Meyer, Clint Isbell, Gabrielle N. Bohlman, Malcolm P. North

Abstract

In California forests that have evolved with frequent fire, very large and severe modern wildfires can put ecological trajectories on a path of departure from reference or desired conditions. On the other hand, such fires may also advance recovery trajectories on parts of a burned landscape. It is important for land managers to understand and explain how postfire interventions may advance restoration and adaptation goals in different areas. This report advances a sciencebased framework to guide interventions for these situations. Targeted interventions to restore desired conditions and ecosystem integrity can consider a combination of ecological and social factors. Important ecological factors include the size and arrangement of burn severity patches, departures from reference vegetation and fire regimes, and potential for natural regeneration, all of which vary with topography across burned landscapes. Social factors that may influence interventions include costs, whether areas are accessible, and the presence of sites with particular social and cultural values, such as recreation or gathering sites. Achieving increased social and ecological resilience to disturbances will depend on facilitating restoration of more natural roles for fire in the future and limiting persistent losses of valuable ecosystem services afforded by mature forests. This report offers examples from recent large and severe wildfires to illustrate how restoration could be applied to an archetypal yellow pine and mixed-conifer forest landscape. Strategies include targeting interiors of very large patches of high severity for harvest and replanting, appropriately reducing fuels in moderate and low-severity burn patches and unburned adjacent areas, treating ridgelines and other potential control lines to facilitate management of future fires, and encouraging return of desirable fires within and adjacent to burned areas. Monitoring and adaptive management will be important for addressing uncertainty because successful restoration and adaptation outcomes may not be fully evident for many decades and because stressors are increasing and interacting in ways that are likely to shift trajectories toward novel conditions.

Click [HERE](#) to view the rest of the report at fs.usda.gov.

Mitigating Potential Sediment Delivery from Post-Fire Salvage Logging California Forestry Report No. 7, February 2023

Joe Wagenbrenner, Drew Coe, and Will Olsen

Introduction

Post-fire salvage logging using ground-based heavy equipment can impact soils and vegetation, and lead to various effects that can increase or decrease post-fire runoff and erosion (removal of soil or sediment from its initial position). This document briefly outlines the current understanding of these effects and provides an overview of best management practices (BMPs) designed to mitigate the negative effects related to sediment delivery to streams and other aquatic resources. It is based on the best available scientific information regarding BMPs that may be used to reduce sediment delivery from post-fire salvage logging activities as well as the authors' knowledge on this topic. The document is intended to complement state, regional, and national regulations and/or guidance for timber harvest activities in unburned and burned forests (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), 2023; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2005; USDA Forest Service, 2000, 2012). This document focuses on implementation on lands subject to California's Forest Practice Rules (FPRs), although the process-based approach allows more broad application of this guidance with appropriate caution, including consideration for climate, landscape setting, and operational conditions or constraints. The primary audience for this document is forestry and watershed professionals. Abbreviated operational guidance will be provided for licensed timber operators in a subsequent product. Research results informing the various effects and guidance are provided in reference materials. No attempt is made to address the ecological aspects of post-fire salvage logging, which are covered elsewhere. Site preparation for reforestation can occur with or without salvage logging, but few studies have addressed the effects of those practices on runoff and erosion (Cole et al., 2020). Similarly, this document does not address best management practices for fire suppression repair, although some of the practices presented herein may apply to suppression repair activities.

Click [HERE](#) to view the rest of the report.

Growing impact of wildfire on western US water supply Published in PNAS.org

A. Park Williams, Ben Livneh, Karen A. McKinnon, Winslow D. Hansen, Justin S. Mankin, Benjamin I. Cook, Jason E. Smerdon, Arianna M. Varuolo-Clarke, Nels R. Bjarke, Caroline S. Juang, and Dennis P. Lettenmaier

Significance

How will increasing wildfire activity affect water resources in the water-limited western United States (WUS)? Among basins where >20% of forest burned, postfire streamflow is significantly enhanced by an average of approximately 30% for 6 y. Over 2015 to 2020, several large WUS basins experienced >10% of forest burned. Climate projections and an exponential forest fire response to climate-induced drying suggest the next 3 decades will see repeated years when WUS forest fire area exceeds that of 2020, which set a modern record for forest area burned. If so, entire regions will likely experience more streamflow than expected, potentially enhancing human access to water but posing hazard management challenges. Projections of water supply and runoff-related hazards must account for wildfire.

Abstract

Streamflow often increases after fire, but the persistence of this effect and its importance to present and future regional water resources are unclear. This paper addresses these knowledge gaps for the western United States (WUS), where annual forest fire area increased by more than 1,100% during 1984 to 2020. Among 72 forested basins across the WUS that burned between 1984 and 2019, the multibasin mean streamflow was significantly elevated by 0.19 SDs ($P < 0.01$) for an average of 6 water years postfire, compared to the range of results expected from climate alone. Significance is assessed by comparing prefire and postfire streamflow responses to climate and also to streamflow among 107 control basins that experienced little to no wildfire during the study period. The streamflow response scales with fire extent: among the 29 basins where >20% of forest area burned in a year, streamflow over the first 6 water years postfire increased by a multibasin average of 0.38 SDs, or 30%. Postfire streamflow increases were significant in all four seasons. Historical fire–climate relationships combined with climate model projections suggest that 2021 to 2050 will see repeated years when climate is more fire-conducive than in 2020, the year currently holding the modern record for WUS forest area burned. These findings center on relatively small, minimally managed basins, but our results suggest that burned areas will grow enough over the next 3 decades to enhance streamflow at regional scales. Wildfire is an emerging driver of runoff change that will increasingly alter climate impacts on water supplies and runoff-related risks.

Click [HERE](#) to view the rest of the article at PSNA.org.

Timber Tax Update First Half 2024

The following are notes from Mike Doyich, RPF #2129, Senior Forest Property Appraiser for the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration for the Timber Tax Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) November 9, 2023.

Thank goodness we made it through a second year in a row with a relatively mild fire season. According to Cal Fire's wildfire statistics as of October 30th, we have had 6,545 fires that have burned a total of just over 319,000 acres so far this year. In 2022, there were 6,644 fires that burned about 290,000 acres. So, we had 99 fewer fires this year, but they were slightly larger in size burning 30,000 more acres. So, on average that's about 300 acres larger per fire. But still, that's not all that bad compared to the State 5-year average of over 1 ½ million acres burned due to over 7,000 individual fires. For 2022 and 2023 we are down over 80% in acres burned compared to the state's 5-year average.

The two consecutive mild fire seasons has allowed the timber industry to catch up on the huge backlog of fire salvage that has accrued over the last several years, primarily from the fires that burned in 2020 and 2021. Looking ahead to next year, while there will still be a minor amount of fire salvage to mop up, the forecast at this time is to return to primarily green timber harvests statewide. In past transition cycles from primarily a salvage to a green market, the trend has generally been reflected in stronger prices for green timber due to increased demand for better quality wood. So it will be interesting to see what happens.

The inland salvage markets throughout the state have really depreciated during the course of this year as the quality in the wood from the older fires continues to deteriorate, and additional damage from insects and decay fungi sets in, while supply has not waned. With mounting pressure from wholesale and retail outlets for higher quality lumber, sawmills have tired of the steady diet of fire salvage, especially in pine. Small, blue stained pine is so abundant that SC 3 salvage pine has little to no value in most markets. The cost to cut and deliver are higher than most mills will pay. In some TVA's the oversupply of small salvage pine is so great some mills are telling landowners not to ship small SC 3 salvage pine. Small salvage White Fir is also not carrying much value in most TVA's.

The Western Wood Products Lumber Price Index indicates prices for finished lumber have been quite volatile all year, not fluctuating up or down for more than two consecutive months. Prices for delivered logs and finished lumber are still not in sync with one another, as has been the case since the pandemic began several years ago. Since April, inland pine lumber is down \$80/MBF, and Hem/Fir and Douglas-fir are both down about \$20/MBF. On the coast, Douglas-fir lumber is down \$64 since April, and Hem/Fir is down \$17/MBF.

The SPI pole plant that closed down at the end of last year due to lack of supply was purchased by the ***Bell Lumber & Pole Company***. They have plants in both Oregon and Washington, but currently none in California. I haven't heard if the plant has been disassembled and moved from the old Anderson location yet.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!