



THE BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



**MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA
STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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(Member Saito resigned on September 9th, 2015)

RICH WADE

MARC LOS HUERTOS

(Member Los Huertos was appointed November 2015)

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MATT DIAS, ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

THEMBI BORRAS, REGULATIONS COODINATOR

KEVIN CONWAY, SRA FORESTER

EDITH HANNIGAN, PLANNING ANALYST

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supervision of forestry activities when those professional services require the application of forestry principles and techniques. The CRM certification is the only “Certified Specialist” (pursuant to 14 CCR §1600) credential bestowed and recognized by the Board. A CRM is defined in 14 CCR §1651 as “... a person who provides services pursuant to 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) 1602, at the request of the landowner or hiring agent, relating to the application of scientific principles to the art and science of managing rangelands and range.

Valid Registered Professional Foresters (RPF) and Certified Rangeland Managers (CRM) as of 12/31/2015	
RPFs	1200
CRMs	81

Enforcement

California Public Resources Code §4601 *et seq.* authorizes the Board to investigate and discipline, “Any person who willfully violates any provision of this chapter or rule or regulation of the Board...” These civil penalties are identified, investigated and pursued by CAL FIRE, with final adjudicative authority on these matters residing with the Board. During the 2015 calendar year, the Board deliberated and took action upon two civil penalties for non-compliance with the Forest Practice Act and/or the Forest Practice Rules.

State Responsibility Area Fee

State Responsibility Area Five Year Review

Every 5 years the Board shall: “... Classify all lands within the state, without regard to any classification of lands made by or for any federal agency or purpose, for the purpose of determining areas in which the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires is primarily the responsibility of the state. The prevention and suppression of fires in all areas that are not so classified is primarily the responsibility of local or federal agencies, as the case may be (PRC §4125).” The Board approved the recommended changes to the State Responsibility Area, effective July 1, 2015.

SRA Fire Prevention Fund Grant

The Board approved a grant program to distribute SRA Fire Prevention Fund (SRAFPPF) grant monies, when such funds are appropriated by the Legislature, as required by PRC §4214. Rulemaking efforts will take place in 2016.

Fee Adjustment

The Board is required to consider adjusting the SRA Fire Prevention Fee each and every year by statute and regulation. Prior to 2015, the Board had no choice in the matter and the fee adjustment was automatic and implemented by Board staff via the Section 100 rule revision process. Recent revision to the PRC § 4212 through Assembly Bill 2048, signed into law on September 30, 2014, now provides the Board the authority to select if the fee is to be adjusted in a given year. The amount in which the fee is to be adjusted is pre-

determined and not subject to revision, but if the fee is to be adjusted by this pre-determined amount is subject to determination by the Board. Below is a description of the action and analysis.

The Board, with input from the Department, reviewed the necessity for an increase to the fee structure and it was determined that no increase to the fee would be necessary in 2015.

PRC § 4214(f) requires the Board to submit to the legislature a written report on the status and uses of the State Responsibility Area Fee Fund (SRA FPF) monies. This report is required by January 1, 2015, and annually thereafter. For the purposes of efficiency, the SRA expenditures report was contained in the 2014 version of this annual report.

SRA fees have been collected since the 2011/2012 fiscal year. While the Board is responsible for reporting expenditures to the Legislature, the SRA Fire Prevention Fee is collected and allocated by the Department. As such, the Board relies on the Department to gather and produce the data necessary for inclusion the fee report. The Department is currently working upon assembling and synthesizing data in regards to fee collection and expenditures. The Board will present these data in the form of either an appendix or amendment to this 2015 Annual Report once the Department provides the data to the Board for review.