Private Forestry:
Registered Professional Foresters work on private forests such as those owned by non-industrial forest landowners and large timber companies. RPFs manage timberlands, purchase and sell timber, schedule harvesting, and supervise operations.
RPFs in private industry also plan and direct reforestation of timberlands, implement measures against fire, insects, diseases, and theft, and may be involved in manufacturing and sale of forest products.

Education and Research:
Another career option for foresters is in education. Some foresters teach forestry in high schools, colleges, universities, or they instruct extension classes on the science of forestry to members of the public who may not be well informed on the subject. Others engage in scientific research to gain information that will improve the protection and management of forests.

Self-Employment:
Many foresters opt for self-employment. They usually serve as consultants to both public and private forest owners. Their work might involve developing and evaluating forest management plans, or they may be hired to investigate and do special studies on the forest or forestry-related activities. Consulting foresters also do appraisals and marketing of timber for public and private interests and assist individual landowners in selling timber and other forest products.

Timber Harvest Planning and Implementation

PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS REGISTRATION

P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460
Office: (916) 653-8031
Fax (916) 653-5386
matt.dias@fire.ca.gov
shuhani.patel@fire.ca.gov

California Universities that host Society of American Foresters (SAF) Accredited Forestry Programs

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY
www.humboldt.edu/fwr/

Berkeley University of California
http://nature.berkeley.edu/site/

CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO
http://nres.calpoly.edu/fnr/index.ldml

Professional Organizations supporting RPFs and Professional Forestry in California

California Licensed Foresters Association
www.CLFA.org

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS 1900
Nor-Cal and So-Cal Chapters, Society of American Foresters
http://norcalsaf.org & www.socalsaf.org

A CAREER IN CALIFORNIA FORESTRY

THE REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTER (RPF)

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
THE RESOURCES AGENCY

A **FOREST** is a complex relationship of soil, air, water, climate, trees, plants, fish, wildlife, and people, together with their machines and structures. **FORESTRY** is the science and practice of managing forested lands for timber, recreation, conservation, and other products and environmental benefits.

In order to practice forestry in California, the Professional Foresters Law requires that a person be licensed as a Registered Professional Forester (RPF).

Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs)

are charged with the care and management of California's forests. A RPF is a person knowledgeable in a wide range of studies such as biology, ecology, entomology, geology, hydrology, meteorology, silviculture, engineering, business administration, archaeology, and forest economics. RPFs use their well-rounded backgrounds to maintain the productivity, ecology, and quality of our forest environments.

RPFs do a variety of things including:

-Organize and direct systems of control for forest fires, insect pests, and tree diseases.

-Determine and mitigate the environmental impacts of management decisions.

-Prescribe thinning for an immature stand of trees, or removal of defective trees for stand improvement.

-Measure the volume of standing timber, appraise its market value, plan its harvest, and administer the sale of the mature timber.

-Plan for recreational uses of forests, and occasionally renovate or restore overused or abused forest sites.

Fuel Hazard Reduction

The **Educational Background** of a RPF usually includes at least a Bachelor of Science degree in a forestry-related field. A BS in Forestry may be substituted for four of the required seven years of work experience necessary to qualify for the licensing exam. Many RPFs also have a Master's or Ph.D. in Forestry, in combination with a BA or BS in a field other than forestry. This combination can also be used in lieu of four years of forestry work experience.

To **Obtain a License** to be a RPF, the following qualifications must be met:

-Seven years of experience in forestry work (three years of which must be having charge of forestry work or under the supervision of a RPF).

-Good moral character and a reputation for honesty and integrity.

-Passing score of at least 75% on the comprehensive written examination administered by the Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC).

An **Application for Registration and License** as a professional forester must be filed with the Board of Forestry before an applicant can be scheduled for an examination. Registration is limited to individuals. No firm, company, partnership, or corporation will be issued a professional foresters license.

After the registration process is completed and the application has been approved, the applicants may take the examination. After passing the test and submitting the proper licensing fee to the Board, the individual is issued a license as a Registered Professional Forester.

Employment opportunities as a RPF are varied. Careers exist in the public sector, private forestry, education and research fields, and as a self-employed forester.

Public Forestry:

The federal, state, and local governments are good sources of employment in California. Some of the primary public employers of RPFs are:

-CA Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection *(CAL FIRE)*
-CA Dept. of Conservation
-CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation
-United States Forest Service
-Bureau of Land Management
-National Park Service
-Bureau of Indian Affairs
-Environmental Protection Agency
-County and City Forestry or Fire Agencies

RPFs in the public or private sector may be assigned to survey forest lands for timber, range, wildlife, watershed, and recreational uses. They may prepare forest plans, inventory and designate timber for harvesting, and assess the environmental risks of proposed activities. Fire and fuels management, and reforestation projects are often part of the responsibilities, as well as dealing with the administration of forest lands and supervision of forestry crews.