

# Licensing News

Office of Professional Foresters Registration



**SUMMER 2024  
VOLUME 36 - ISSUE 1**

## **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. David Lile – 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.*

Mr. Terrance O'Brien, Chair (Public Representative)  
Ms. Elizabeth Forsburg, Vice-Chair (Public Representative)  
Mr. Christopher Chase (Industry Representative)  
Ms. Katie Delbar (Range/Livestock Representative)  
Mr. Mike Jani (Industry Representative)  
Mr. J Lopez (Public Representative)  
Mr. Richard Wade (Industry Representative)  
Ms. Dawn Blake (Public Representative)  
Mr. Ali Jahangiri (Public Representative)

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## **Board Additions**



**Terrence O'Brien**, of Sacramento, has been appointed to and designated Chair of the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. O'Brien was Chairperson of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy from 2018 to 2024. He was a Senior Environmental Consultant at Environmental Resources Management from 2012 to 2014. O'Brien was Senior Advisor for Forests to Governor Brown in 2018. O'Brien was Environmental and Compliance Advisor to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management on Renewable Energy Development in the Western U.S. from 2012 to 2013. He was Deputy Director of the Environmental Protection and Siting Division at the California Energy Commission from 2002 to 2011. O'Brien was also Chief Advisor to the Chairman of the California Energy Commission from 2000 to 2002. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master of Arts degree in Geography from the University of California, Davis.



**Ali Jahangiri**, Jahangiri has been Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Eb5Investors and Uglobal since 2012 and has been Owner and Chief Executive Officer at Hotels Magazine since 2020. He was an Attorney at Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth from 2002 to 2005. Jahangiri earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of California, Irvine and a Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law School.

## **Board Staff Additions**



**Alexandra Vest**, Alexandra joined the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in April of 2024. She has been with Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) since 2019 where she started working in the Office of Human Resources. Prior to her tenure at CAL FIRE, Alexandra worked in the environmental consulting field in the private sector. She studied Environmental Studies at California State University Sacramento, and lives in Sacramento with her family.

## **Board Staff Additions Cont'd**



**Daniel Craig**, Dan started his career in forestry after graduating Humboldt State University in 1992. After graduating he began working as a forestry technician with Simpson Timber Company, forest engineering department in Korb learning the THP process. January 1998 Dan successfully obtained his RPF license and was promoted to the Orick office as an RPF preparing THPs. In December of 1999 he took a job back in his hometown of Redding with the California Department of Forestry in the Shasta-Trinity Unit. While working for the California Department of Forestry Dan served the public as a Forest Practice Inspector, Fire Crew Captain, Review Team Chairperson, subject matter expert in the development of CalTREES, CAL FIRE Northern Region Vegetation

Management Program Manager supporting 12 CAL FIRE Units and currently is the BOF Regulations Program Manager. As an RPF Dan has a passion for forestry and volunteers to mentor local schools in forestry related topics, volunteers with the Forestry Challenge and works with Shasta College's Forestry program. In his off time from forestry Dan enjoys spending time shooting archery and attending archery tournaments in California and Oregon.

## **Board Departures**



**Board Chair, Keith Gilless** resigned his position with the Board after more than a decade of service and leadership. Keith will be missed by both Board Staff and stakeholders for his warm personality, his breadth of knowledge on just about anything, and his well thought out responses to complex questions before the Board. There is a consensus of respect and admiration for Keith and Board Staff wish him well in his retirement.

## **PFEC Additions**



Mr. David Lile has been added to the Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC) as the new CRM representative. Mr. Lile has worked as a Range Conservationist, a Natural Resources Livestock Advisor, and also served for 10 years as County Director for UC Cooperative Extension in Lassen County, and the last 13 years as the Director in Plumas and Sierra County. He has a BS and MS in Range and Wildlands Science from UC Davis.

## **PFEC Departures**



Mr. Larry Forero has passed the torch as the PFEC's CRM representative. Larry, who has served on the PFEC since 2016, was provided with a Distinguished Service Award for his 8 years on the committee representing the interests of both CRM and RPFs. I'm sure Larry will enjoy having more free time to ski the slopes of Mount Shasta, but his perspectives and contributions to the committee will be missed.

## **The View from the 10<sup>th</sup> Floor**

*by Dan Stapleton, Asst. Executive Officer*

We are in the middle of fire season and another conflagration is quickly spreading in northern California, consuming fuels across the forested landscape and endangering homes, communities and fire fighters. The Park fire is now over 350,000 acres and will likely take its place as one of the largest fires in California history. The risk of wildland fire impacts everyone who owns a home and pays insurance, myself included. I was dropped by my carrier and had to seek out another in a very limited market for homeowners insurance. Premiums have tripled and many insurers will provide discounts for fire wise communities and wildfire prepared properties. It is important for homeowners to take the time to read these wildfire related programs and understand the changes in how we manage landscapes around our homes and how to reinforce and protect homes through certain simple changes. Things like vent screening and double paned windows. The discounts provided by the insurers are not substantial compared to the amount of work that will need to be done in some cases. Still, it is better to have a home to live in than a complicated and costly clean up.

On the forestry front, the board is addressing issues related to fuel treatment within stream zones, updated water course crossing requirements for emergency notices, the use of exemptions on active plan areas, and CNDDDB access issues.

The Board, in its May meeting, approved the Apprentice Professional Forester Educational Program regulatory language for 45-day public comment and OAL review. The regulation allows any public agency or professional society to submit to the Board for review, a program for certification of proposed forestry educational programs that focus on educating and evaluating students in significant core concepts in forestry. Once the Board in its review approves the various facets of the proposed educational program, program graduates, having demonstrated competency in significant core concepts in forestry, will only be required to take an abbreviated RPF exam when qualified at year seven, where their test will focus on applied knowledge only. The proposal provides a second pathway forward for licensing. The first pathway being the full comprehensive exam as it has been administered for the last fifty years. The second pathway being successful completion of an APF program and subsequently taking and passing an abbreviated exam at year seven, once the applicant is fully qualified. This second pathway effectively splits the examination process into two parts. It is anticipated the abbreviated exam will essentially become Part I of the exam testing from 8:30 to noon. APF program graduates would depart once completed at noon. Those who elected to take the full comprehensive exam will continue and get a full dosing of significant core concept forestry questions during part II from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

Finally, as you peruse this newsletter you will find that there have been some tragic losses in the RPF community this year including some colleagues and friends of mine. When I was a THP writer in industry, Bill Solinsky was an approachable figure in the Forest Practice Department. He was always personable and respectful and ended up being my boss for a short while. He was a good man and I'll miss him. Ryan Tompkins worked for UCANR and was a wonderful person always making me feel more important than I really am. He was a shining star in the forest resilience front and his energy and instincts were unsurpassed. Doug Leisz, a former Associate Chief of the US Forest Service was the most eloquent and compelling speaker I have ever encountered. He knew how to bring people together when sparring over contentious forestry issues.

I offer my sincere condolences to all their families and to the families of Ben Stone, his wife Jessca Wintermute Stone, Mark Pawlicki, Douglas Jager and Wayne Hawk. A few of the fine foresters and biologists who were taken from this world, some much too early. Yet their legacy remains in the diverse and productive California forested landscape they helped to manage and in the foresters they mentored along the way.

## Statistics

### Year to Date Wildfire Statistics (CAL FIRE and Federal)

Updated as of July 18, 2024

Interval	Fires	Acres
2024 Combined YTD (CALFIRE & Federal) *	3,986	242,039
2023 Combined YTD (CALFIRE & Federal)	3,323	21,541
5-Year Average (same interval) *	3,953	108,071

\*These numbers are subject to change until the final fire season reports are completed and tabulated. (2024 stats include all wildfires dispatched to by CAL FIRE in SRA & LRA as reported in CAD, SRA wildfires within Contract Counties and federal data based off NIFC Incident Management Situation Report and Department of Defense).

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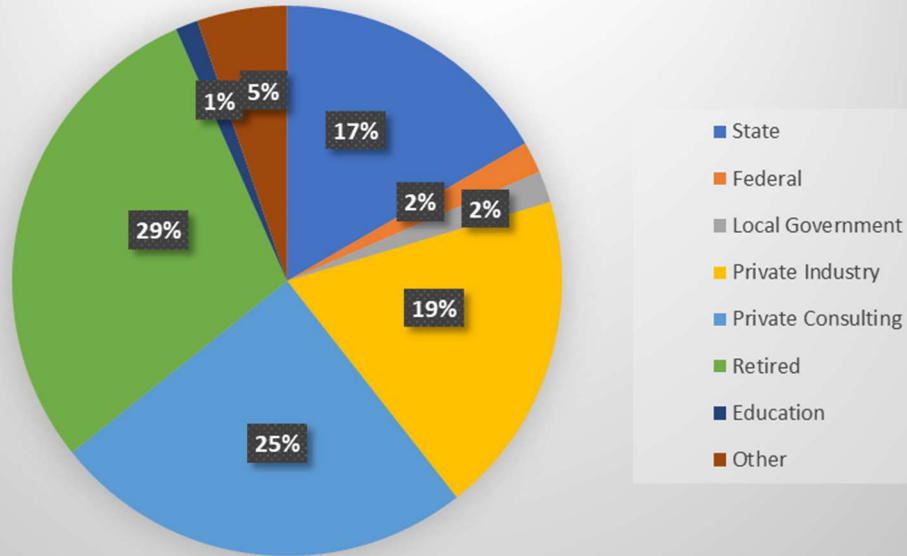
## **REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS & CERTIFIED RANGELAND MANAGERS**

The table below indicates the known status of all current and former registrants by license type as of **July 25, 2024**. Expired licenses subsequently revoked by the Board for non-payment have one year to pay all fees to reinstate.

<b>STATUS</b>	<b>RPF's</b>	<b>CRM's</b>
Valid	1,104	74
Withdrawn	98	7
About to Expire	26	6
Revoked (non-payment or disciplinary action)	849	23
Voluntarily Relinquished	813	17
Suspended	1	0
Deceased	364	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,255</b>	<b>134</b>



## RPF Survey Results



As of July 19, 2024, 378 registrants responded to our employment survey in their renewal letters resulting in the following percentages for employment status.

## Snapshot in History



Francis H. Raymond, fourth row center, at the Association of State Foresters meeting in Deadwood, South Dakota, October 12, 1955.

# **Meetings of Interest and Special Announcements**

## **Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Meeting Dates.**

The Board's next meeting is scheduled for August 21 at the Resources Building in Sacramento. 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 late August, 2024.

On May 15, 2024, the Board unanimously approved for 45-day public noticing for the "Apprentice Professional Forester Educational Program" proposed rulemaking. This proposed regulation, pending review by the Office of Administrative Law and other State offices, is patterned after [14 CCR 1650 Specialties](#), where a professional society or public agency may propose an educational program to educate licensing applicants and provide for evaluation of the applicant's competency in significant core forestry concepts at year four of the seven years required to qualify for professional licensing. The Board will review each program and can propose changes as necessary. Final approval requires the Board to determine that the program protects the public and the natural resources of the state. Applicants who successfully pass said program will be eligible to sit for an abbreviated final licensing exam at year seven that is roughly equivalent in length to one half of the current comprehensive RPF examination. Since successful program graduates are determined to be competent in significant core forestry concepts, the abbreviated exam will test only on applied knowledge.

Current PFEC priorities include:

- [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.
- [Reciprocity](#) – Currently there are 14 states and one province with forester licensing programs that are being reviewed by the PFEC. A few of these states have similar requirements for experience and/or education leading to examination for licensing. The regulation under 14 CCR 1611 states:

*"A Professional forester who is licensed in another state which maintains requirements and qualifications which are equal to or superior to those of the State of California may, upon successfully passing a special examination prescribed by the Board and payment of the required fees be registered as a professional forester, provided that said state observes these same Rules of reciprocity.*

The regulation under 14 CCR 1640.3 stipulates:

*"The special examination which may be administered on the basis of reciprocity to a person licensed in another state may be limited in scope to those subjects which in the opinion of the committee are unique to the practice of forestry in California."*

- Renewal Fees and Fund Condition – The last fee increase was in 2021 and was substantial as there had been no fee increase prior to this since 1994. Currently our registry is comprised of 40% of RPFs who have been registered for 30 years or more. Approximately 29% of all RPFs are currently retired. Under 14 CCR 1605 (e):

*The Professional Foresters Examining Committee shall review, at least once every five years, the availability of funds necessary to administer this Chapter and recommend any fee changes necessary for continued administration.*

At the current fee levels, the licensing fund will be in the red again at the end of the next fiscal year. Therefore, adjustment to the renewal fees will be considered by the Board at an upcoming meeting.

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 winter or spring of 2025 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](mailto:Kristina.Wolf@bof.ca.gov) to join the RMAC mailing list and keep informed on upcoming range events.

RMAC members, staff, and industry experts conducted a 1hr-40m presentation and panel symposium at the 77<sup>th</sup> 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—covered the history, applications, and future of prescribed grazing alone or in combination with other fuels treatment activities. Speakers and panelists represented U.C. Cooperative Extension, state agencies, the Board, private industry, and research and academia, and hailed from across California, Idaho, Minnesota, and Saskatchewan, Canada. A [Supplementary Resources List](#) was developed and shared on the [RMAC webpage](#) under “Workshops”, along with all speaker presentation materials.

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 2024: Michelle Katuna and Kaveh Motamed.

In 2024 Executive Director of the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Institute at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, Frank L. Frievalt, provided a presentation on the goals, activities, and focus of the institute in supporting wildfire risk and mitigation efforts across the State. Mr. Frievalt’s presentation is available [online](#).

In the first half of 2024, Member Andréa Soares—representing the California Wool Grower’s Association—and Member Rich Ross—representing the California Cattlemen’s Association—were reappointed to four-year terms on the RMAC. Dr. Marc Horney from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo was reappointed to a one-year term as the Chair, and Dr. Stephanie Larson of the U.C. Cooperative Extension was reappointed to a one-year term as Vice Chair. Jeremy Walker, manager of Corte Madera Ranch in Alpine (San Diego County) was unanimously appointed to an open seat on the RMAC in July 2024. Mr. Walker was nominated by the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego and joined the RMAC as an expert speaker for a Board of Forestry & Fire Protection rangelands field tours in summer 2023. One additional seat remains open on the RMAC and must be filled by an individual nominated by an organization representing rangeland owners per [Public Resources Code \(PRC\) § 741](#). Interested individuals or nominating organizations may see the [Call for Applications](#) for more details.

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 associated Grazing Management Plan template, along with a Guidance Booklet, to assist and guide land managers, agencies, and livestock grazers 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.

The next meeting of the RMAC will occur in Sacramento on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and interested individuals and organizations may attend in person or virtually: [REGISTER HERE](#). 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 first half of 2024. At its first meeting of the year, the EMC finalized revisions to its [Research Themes and Critical Monitoring Questions](#) and designated the priority research questions for the 2024/25 Funding Cycle. The [Request for Proposals](#) was released in mid-March with applications due May 15th. The EMC assessed the seven Initial Project Proposals it received at its second meeting of the year and voted to request Full Project Proposals from four teams. Full Project Proposals will be reviewed at the upcoming August 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. Project proposals and outcomes are posted on the [EMC's webpage](#) under "Meeting Materials". The next EMC Request for Proposals will open in Spring 2025. Keep an eye on the [EMC's webpage](#) for announcements and deadlines.

In 2024 the EMC reappointed Members Dr. Leander Love-Anderegg, Sal Chinicci, and Matthew O'Connor to seats on the Monitoring Community. Three seats on the EMC are currently unoccupied: two on the Monitoring Community, and one agency representative for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; three additional agency representative seats will backfill once an appropriate candidate can be found (State Water Resources Control Board, U.S. Forest Service, and North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board).

In 2024 Dr. Kevin Bladon, Associate Professor of Forest Ecohydrology and Watershed Science of Oregon State University provided a Final Project Presentation on EMC-2018-006, "Effect of FPRS on Restoring Canopy Closure, Water Temperature, & Primary Productivity." The EMC expects to receive several additional progress reports and final project presentations at the remaining two meetings planned for 2024, along with initial drafts of Completed Research Assessments for completed EMC-supported research projects.

The next EMC meeting will occur in Sacramento on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and interested individuals and organizations may attend in person or virtually: [REGISTER HERE](#). 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.

Three Institute Projects were approved by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) this spring. The Institute's [Cross-Laminated Timber Layup Tests Using Mixed Fir Species](#) was approved by the Board at their March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Conducted by the TallWood Design Institute at Oregon State University, the study assesses the feasibility of mixed species CLT using white fir and Douglas-fir. [Measuring Transport Properties for Concrete Containing Cellulose](#)

[Nanocrystals \(CNC\): Porosity, Resistivity, and Chloride Ingress](#) was another study conducted by Oregon State University that was approved at the March Board meeting. It assesses the influence of CNCs on the service life of steel in concrete elements to extend the time to onset of reinforcing steel corrosion. At their April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board approved the third Institute project completed this year. Conducted by UC Berkeley, [Recommendations to Advance Forest-Derived Renewable Natural Gas in California](#) provides recommendations to the California Public Utilities Commission and other state agencies on renewable natural gas from forest biomass.

The Institute also has several other projects underway.

- Mountain Community Affordable Workforce Housing with Mass Timber Components
- Forest Industry Infrastructure Capacity Assessment and Needs Analysis
- CEQA Support for Wood Utilization
- Assessment of State Purchasing Protocols Related to Innovative Wood Products
- Development of a Life Cycle Accounting Model for Biofuel Production from Forest Biomass Waste in California

More information this Board Advisory Committee can be found on the [Institute webpage](#). If you are interested in joining the listserv to stay abreast of Institute meetings and work, please contact Katie Harrell, program administrator, at [katie.harrell@bof.ca.gov](mailto:katie.harrell@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](mailto:dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov) so that we can pay tribute to these individuals.



### **Ben Stone, RPF #3163, Jessica Wintermute Stone**

Benjamin Avery Stone, the only child of William Avery Stone and Deborah Weber, was born in Santa Rosa, CA in 1987. He and his beloved wife, Jessica Rose Wintermute Stone, died in an automobile accident in Siskiyou County in northern California on 29 December 2023.

After years of soccer, Little League, Boy Scouts, jazz band, honor band, and playing bass in punk and ska bands, Ben graduated from Maria Carrillo High School in Santa Rosa and earned a five-year Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry at Humboldt State in 2016. Ben worked for Jefferson Resource Company starting in McKinleyville in 2015 and moved to the Yreka office in 2017 where he met Jessica, who, with her degree in Wildlife Biology from UC Davis, also worked for Jefferson. They fell in love and were married in 2019, purchasing a ranch in Montague soon afterwards. In 2022 Ben earned his

Registered Professional Forester license (RPF #3163), a difficult and important milestone in his professional career.

Embracing their rural life and community, they were in turn embraced by countless friends, colleagues, and church family at Siskiyou Christian Fellowship where Ben and his bass guitar transitioned from reggae to the Praise band.

Ben and Jessica lived on their wonderful ranch at the northern edge of the Shasta Valley -- looking south to a picture-perfect view of Mount Shasta -- with horses, goats, chickens, dogs, a cat, a pet snake, and a goldfish named Butterscotch as well as their four beautiful children. All four children survived the accident thanks to seatbelts and car seats.

With the loss of Ben and Jessica, the two older children, Hennessy and Jaymeson, now live with their father (Jessica's first husband) and his family in Weed, CA. The two younger children, Rose and Faith, now live with Deborah and Bill, their paternal grandparents, in Santa Rosa.



**Bill Solinsky, RPF #2297**

William "Bill" Dean Solinsky William "Bill" Dean Solinsky passed away peacefully with his family by his side on January 8th, 2024 in Folsom, California. Bill, son of the late Dean and Charmian Chandler Solinsky, was born on April 19th, 1950 in Sacramento, California.

Bill served in the forestry field for more than 35 years, graduating from Humboldt State University in 1985 and becoming a Registered Professional Forester shortly thereafter. He began working for the family firm, Frank and Dean Solinsky Forestry, later becoming the successor. Bill ended his career with Cal Fire after serving the state for 14 years. He was a proud member of the Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF), enjoying annual family vacations for ACF conferences. Bill was an avid music lover attending hundreds of concerts in his early years and writing bluegrass songs on his acoustic guitar in his later years. Growing up in the Bay Area, he was always cheering for the 49ers and Giants and telling anyone who would listen about being in the stands when Willie McCovey went 4 for 4 in his S.F. debut. He loved making Sunday breakfast, telling dad jokes, watching his kids play sports (even cheerleading), and most of all, being "Papa" to his grandchildren.

Those who knew Bill described him as kind, generous, thoughtful, hard-working, and the life of the party. He loved his family deeply, had countless friends, and was always up for one more "final final" nightcap. He will be greatly missed and his legacy will live on in those he knew and loved. Published by Times-Standard on Jan. 14, 2024.





**Mitchell Haydon, RPF #2810** *Written by his colleagues at ERS* - Mitchell C. Haydon, passed away April 2, 2024 following a thirteen-year battle with pancreatic and liver cancers, he was 51 years old.

Mitch was born May 2, 1972, in Auburn, CA to parents Robert and Constance Haydon who still reside in Auburn, his older brother Matthew and his family also live in Auburn. His passion for the outdoors began with family outings and guidance through Scouting, Mitch earned his Eagle Scout in 1988, a proud recognition that was always on Mitch's resume. Taking his quest to learn more of the natural environment, Mitch obtained his B.S. Forestry from California State University, San Luis Obispo in 1995, worked as a forester at the U.C. Berkeley's Center for Forestry in Georgetown for a year, and continued to U.C. Berkeley for a M.S. in Forestry in 2002.



Mitch's forestry journey led him to the Sonoma County region where he worked as a Senior Consulting Forester with Western Environmental Consultants in 1997-1998. Mitch entered the Santa Rosa, Hammon Jensen Wallen & Associates (HJW) office July 1998, was hired on-the-spot, where for 26 years he forged his professional leadership and passion for Forestry. As a forester at HJW, he led the Forest Inventory Projects, including the large inventory of the then Pacific Lumber Company lands where an accelerated delivery had Mitch contacting every Forestry firm and RPF in Humboldt County who answered the call. All pitched in and collected plots, the testament of the bonds of professional Foresters. The HJW forestry division was sold in 2002 to employees, John W. Williams and Bonnie J. Burchill, along with Mitch, they started Environmental Resource Solutions, Inc. (ERS), to continue the legacy of providing professional forestry consulting services. In 2006 Mitch became a partner, Vice President in 2016 where he led the Sebastopol office providing his 26 years of experience and leadership to continue the vision of professional forestry and mentor the technical staff of ERS "Grab your Gear" was a sign in his office, a reminder to the 'young' and 'old' foresters, to always be prepared for a day in the woods.



With accelerated changes in our environment, Mitch continued to position ERS to respond and provide professional forestry services. Mitch conducted damage loss assessments and valuations for timberlands in California and other western States, including expert witness services for fire damage claims in California, Texas and New Mexico. As a certified arborist, Mitch provided tree trimming and removal guidance to landowners in Sonoma and Mendocino County, many who were impacted by recent wildfires. Mitch continued his passion for Natural Resources and how trees are a part of the landscape.

He obtained his certification as a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control, furthering his skillset and passion for Natural Resources. Mitch was active in professional organizations, California Licensed Forester Association, Society of American Foresters and the Association of Consulting Foresters.



Mitch was a devoted father to his two sons Josh age 20 and Jackson 'Jack' age 18. His greatest passion was spending time with his boys. Mitch fostered his innate love and respect of the natural environment to Josh and Jack with family adventures of skiing, camping, fishing, and hunting. Mitch was always on outings with the boys and shared the stories of their adventures. His face always lit up when he talked and shared the accomplishments of his boys. Mitch led the boys through scouting, was a Troop leader and carried his legacy of Scouting to both Josh and Jackson. He was proud of his boys who followed in his footsteps and Josh and Jack have earned their Eagle Scout.

Mitch was a devoted father, friend, and leader of our profession who will be deeply missed.

Memorial Donations can be made to:

The Placer Community Foundation – designate Environmental Sustainability  
<https://www.placercf.org/>

Boy Scouts Troup 74  
C/O Doug Perlich  
808 West St.  
Petaluma, CA 94952



**Ryan Tompkins–RPF #3108** *Written by Pamela S Kan-Rice for UC Cooperative Extension.* Ryan Tompkins, UC Cooperative Extension forestry and natural resources advisor for Plumas, Sierra and Lassen counties, passed away on May 6 while receiving treatment for cancer. He was 49.

On topics ranging from reforestation to forest health to fire resilience, Tompkins, who became a UCCE advisor in 2019, was respected and admired by his peers and the many communities he served.

“Ryan's presence was a source of joy and inspiration for me,” said Yana Valachovic, UCCE director and forest advisor for Humboldt and Del Norte counties. “His kindness and gentleness were unparalleled. Our virtual coffee sessions, where we discussed our challenges and joys, were always a highlight of my day. His ability to communicate complex information with clarity and fun was a testament to his amazing talents and personality.”

David Lile, UCCE director for Lassen, Plumas and Sierra counties, said, "Within the UCCE Plumas-Sierra staff, Ryan was a leader, friend and confidant. His humor, whether in the form of an impromptu Halloween costume or a stunning fire demonstration, never failed to raise office spirits."

In his ANR [town hall presentation](#) in 2022, Tompkins described his work making communities more resilient to wildfire, showing photos of the Dixie and Fly fires that he had taken from his house in Quincy.

Tompkins started his own Firewise community in his neighborhood of 36 residences. After joining UC ANR, he set his sights on making the entire town of Quincy, over 2,000 residences, a Firewise USA Site and achieved it in May 2021.

That year, the Plumas County Fire Safe Council recognized Tompkins' accomplishments in making the community more fire-resilient.



"Ryan Tompkins has been a huge part of the progress made with the Quincy Firewise USA initiative," Mike Flanigan of Flanigan-Leavitt Insurance wrote in his nomination letter. "He successfully received certification in his own neighborhood – Galleppi Ranch. He is thorough and keeps the committee focused. We on the Quincy Firewise Committee are very grateful for Ryan's professional input and support."

When tackling a new problem, Ricky Satomi, UCCE forest advisor for Sutter, Yuba, Butte and Nevada counties, often called Tompkins, who was "always ready to jump in with a helping hand or cheerful affirmation."

"Ryan exemplified the spirit and purpose of extension, always finding an inventive path to lift all through the challenges we face," Satomi said. "His expertise and tenacity have been a guiding force for state and federal efforts on wildfire, reforestation and workforce issues. His research and teachings have mentored entire generations of forestry professionals across the state – to say nothing of the dedication he brought to building wildfire and community resilience in Plumas County. Ryan was a cornerstone of forestry in California and inspired all around him to be the best version of themselves."

Prior to joining UCCE, Tompkins served as the forest silviculturist and vegetation program manager at the Plumas National Forest, where he designed, planned and implemented landscape-scale forest restoration projects. He held forester positions for 16 years with the U.S. Forest Service, worked in the fire effects program with the National Park Service, and taught forest ecology and management as associate faculty in the Environmental Studies Department at Feather River College.

He earned master's and bachelor's degrees in forestry from UC Berkeley.

"I especially enjoyed my time with Ryan during our CARET [Council on Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching] trip to Washington, D.C. in 2023," said Vice President Glenda Humiston, "and I will greatly miss him – as a consummate Cooperative Extension advisor and as a wonderful person."

Valachovic vividly remembers Tompkins calling her about his cancer diagnosis. "He shared that he did not want a pity party and that he had had an amazing life," she recalled. "Like all things about Ryan, he took it with grace and humility."

She added, "I think about him daily and reflect on 'what Ryan would do' in this or that situation. What comes to mind is to smile, give compliments and find joy in each task or interaction."

Tompkins is survived by his wife Michelle Coppoletta and their sons Emmett and Sterling.

Those wishing to send well-wishes to Tompkins' family may mail cards to the UCCE Plumas-Sierra office, care of Samantha Brown, 208 Fairgrounds Road, Quincy, CA, 95971. A memorial for Tompkins is being planned and more details will be provided as they become available.

**Doug Leisz – RPF #249** *Written by David Bakke in the California SAF newsletter.*



Doug Leisz passed away April 20th at home in Placerville, surrounded by family. Doug was one of the great Regional Foresters in the Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service and a true visionary leader. He personally mentored hundreds of foresters and Forest Service employees. He retired as Associate Chief of the Forest Service in 1982, after serving alongside of Forest Service Chiefs Max Peterson and F. Dale Robertson. Doug had an uncanny way with people, getting them to see the Forest Service side of highly controversial issues.

Doug was born in Oakland in 1926 and attended Oakland High School. Upon graduation, he attended UC Berkeley, intending to major in engineering. But as World War II began, he decided to join the Merchant Marine Cadet Corps, hoping for an officer's commission in the Navy or Merchant Marine. He was field promoted to a third officer in the Merchant Marines and stayed in the service until the war ended. It was during his time at sea that Doug decided a desk job was not what he wanted and decided to look into forestry when he returned to Berkeley. His first job with the Forest Service was in 1948, working a summer for the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine doing surveys in Northern California and Oregon. He graduated from UC Berkeley in 1950. It was the same year that he and Marian were married.

His career in the Forest Service, after graduation, began as the foreman at the Mt. Shasta nursery, near McCloud. Other positions in the Forest Service over his career included District Ranger, Assistant Regional Forester, Forest Supervisor, Regional Forester, and Associate Chief. Doug retired from the Associate Chief position and (semi)retired to the Placerville area.

Doug was a long-time SAF member, joining in 1953. He was also a Golden Member and an SAF Fellow.



After his retirement, Doug was instrumental in the creation of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees that acted as an advisory group to Forest Service leadership. He served as the organization's first Chair. He also served on the board of the National Museum of Forest Service History for many years. In 2018, the National Museum of Forest Service History and the National Association of Forest Service Retirees established the Leisz Leadership

Award in honor of Doug to recognize those who have made significant contributions to both organizations. The first Award was presented to Doug in 2018.

He and Marian had their own vineyard in Placerville and produced outstanding red wines. They were married for 70 years until Marian's death in 2020.

Doug was part of California SAF's oral history project.

For insight into Doug's career and life, in his own words, you can see his oral history here: [Oral History Project](#)

**Mark Pawlicki – RPF #2680** *Written by the Sacramento Bee on May 20, 2024.*

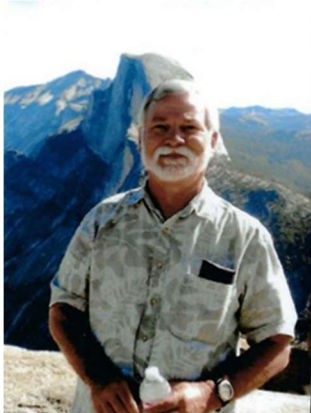


Mark J. Pawlicki passed away surrounded by family from complications related to Progressive Supranuclear Palsy. Mark enjoyed his many years working in the State Capitol representing the forest products industry. He was a professional forester who believed in the science of forest management. He had the honor of representing Simpson/Green Diamond Resource Company, California Forestry Association, and Sierra Pacific Industries. He made many

long-lasting friendships. Mark has left us but his sweetness and joy will remain. PSP took a toll on his body, but not his spirit or determination to live a happy, fulfilling, meaningful life. He would be honored if you remember him by making a contribution to

Michigan State University Forestry Program, 480 Wilson Road, E. Lansing, Mi 48824. To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store. Published by The Sacramento Bee on May 20, 2024.

**Wayne Hawk – RPF #2165** *Written by Cindy Hawk*



Wayne Davis Hawk was born May 17, 1950 to Charles and Alyce Hawk in Cleveland, Ohio. Wayne passed away on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in Redding, California. Wayne graduated La Habra High school in 1968 and attended Fullerton Junior College before enlisting in the Navy in 1970. For most of his four years he was stationed at Moffett Field in the bay area, where he acted as Aviation Electronics Technician 3<sup>rd</sup> Class aboard a

P-3 Orion aircraft that was used to locate and track submarines. He was honorably discharged in 1974.

Wayne started Forestry Technician school at Sierra College in Rocklin, CA in 1974 with one of his best friends from the Navy. Upon completion he was hired by Diamond International in 1976 and received his professional foresters license in 1983. He continued working for Diamond until 1986 when he made the decision to return to college at Fullerton State to get a degree in Computer Science, graduating in 1989. He was then hired by Mason Bruce and Girard (MB&G), a consulting firm based in Oregon but with offices in Redding. He eventually left MB&G and joined Continental Resource Solutions where he retired in 2015.

Wayne met his wife Cindy in 1969 and were best friends, dating off and on until they were married in 1973. They have two beautiful children, Amber and Cory and one amazing grandson Davis.

Wayne was a good man with a quiet soul yet he had a sense of humor that surprised you when you least expected. He was intelligent, disciplined and wise. He loved his family, music from the 1960's and 70's, tending to his yard, bird watching, the woods, the LA Dodgers, the game show Jeopardy, scary movies, and good books.



**Douglas Jager - RPF #1532** *Written by Kym Kemp in the [Redheaded Blackbelt](#).*

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Douglas John Jager, PhD, Emeritus Professor of Forestry and Watershed Management, Humboldt State University. Doug died on June 7, 2024, at his north Trinidad home with his loving family by his side. Born in Oakland, California, on New Year's Eve 1939, Doug boasted that he never had to go to school or to work on his birthday and that people across the nation celebrated his special day.

After graduating from Fremont High School in Oakland, Doug attended junior college and then transferred to Humboldt State College where he majored in forestry. On campus, in the dining room of the Nelson Hall dorm, he met Nancy Foster, an elementary education major from Ukiah, California. They were married on August 13, 1961, at the Ukiah Methodist Church and had sixty-two wonderful years together.

Doug loved teaching and the interactions with his students. He began as a teaching assistant in forest engineering during his junior year at Humboldt State. After earning a Bachelor of Science in Forestry, he continued to teach in both forestry and watershed management while earning his Master of Science in Forestry. He then went on to teach forestry at the University of Nevada while completing his PhD in Wildland Hydrology. Doug returned to Humboldt State in 1973 as a professor of Forestry and Watershed Management and retired as Emeritus faculty in 2000. He was known as a hard teacher, earning the nickname of "clear cut." He was not sure if it was because of his short haircut or his forestry philosophy.

Doug and Nancy, a retired elementary school teacher, have two wonderful children. Christopher, a retired commercial fisherman and fishing boat captain, was born in 1967 in Arcata. Doug passed down his love of fishing and firewood cutting to Chris. Sally was born in 1969 in Reno, Nevada, and is a retired elementary school teacher. Sally inherited Doug's passion for horses at an early age. Chris and Sally both took excellent care of their dad during his senior years and final days.

Throughout the years Doug had many hobbies. He enjoyed riding his bicycle and motorcycle, driving his sports car and tractor, sailing his catamaran at Big Lagoon with his family, canoeing the local rivers and lagoons, and boating at Lake Tahoe and Big Lagoon. Doug also loved surf, bass, trout, and ocean fishing, horseback riding at the local beaches, Trinidad State Park, and Redwood National Park, growing and selling Redwood tree saplings to the locals and tourists of Humboldt County, and sitting around the backyard pool reading, visiting, napping, and enjoying the beautiful outdoor surroundings of his home of over fifty years. During their later years, Doug and Nancy traveled the western states in their motorhome and enjoyed cruises to Mexico, Alaska, and Hawaii with family.

Doug was a registered professional forester and had worked on Redwood tree and watershed research and projects in Southern Humboldt and Northern Mendocino counties including the Mattole and Bull Creek areas. A conservationist, he belonged to numerous groups including The Society of American Foresters, the Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club, and the Audubon Society. He was a founding member of CHERT, a Humboldt County team of scientists reviewing and making recommendations on gravel extraction on the Mad, Van Duzen, Smith, and Eel rivers. Doug previously served on the local Trinidad Volunteer Fire Department and was a past president of Rural Trinidad.

Doug was preceded in death by his parents Cornelius and Anne Jager, stepfather Victor Fogh, older brother Clifford Jager, daughter-in-law Colleen Jager, in-laws Alfred and Vivian Foster, brother-in-law Martin Davis, and sister-in-law Linda Foster.

## **Regulatory Development**

**The following proposed regulations have finished their first Notice Period and are on track to go into effect on January 1, 2025.**

**Wet Areas, meadows, and Restoration Activities, 2024** - This rule package updates the definition for "Wet Areas" so that it takes into account interannual variation in precipitation, replaces the definitions "Wet Meadows or Other Wet Areas" and "Meadows and Wet Areas" with "Wet Areas", and expands the areas that can undergo meadow restoration activities under the "Aspen, Meadows and Wet Areas Restoration" special prescription to include the historic extent of a meadow.

### **Less Than 3-acre Conversion Exemption Amendments, 2024 –**

The purpose of the proposed action updates the Less than 3-acre Conversion Exemption to improve the clarity and efficiency of the regulations related to the regulatory exemptions authorized by PRC § 4584(g) and make them consistent with the regulatory revisions to exemptions following the passage of SB 901. The revisions plan to provide adequate resource protection while maintaining a minimally burdensome ministerial permitting process by clarifying some aspects of the Less than 3-acre Conversion Exemption submission, notification, and review process. The changes also adopt the waiver of the one-time conversion permitted by the passage of AB 1526.

### **Drought Mortality and Forest Fire Prevention Exemption Amendments, 2024**

The proposed rule package places an acreage limitation on the Drought Mortality Exemption, adjusts canopy closure standards for the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption and places those requirements under § 1038.3 instead of under §1052.4, removes the now-expired Small Timberland Owner Exemption from the rules, and updates the expiration date for the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption to reflect current statute.



These regulation files are available at the Board website [HERE](#). If you require other or archived material, please email Dan Craig, (Dan.Craig@fire.ca.gov) Regulations Program Manager.

## **RPF and CRM Examination Announcements**

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

The April 2025 RPF/CRM Exam Notice has been posted and is scheduled for Friday April 4, 2025. The deadline for NEW applications for that exam is February 7, 2025.

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](mailto: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, no new complaints were received. One case was reviewed and acted upon as follows.

**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 sustained two complaint items against David Whittier, RPF #2643, that RPF Whittier committed material misstatement of fact and misrepresentation of on-site conditions of an exemption by failing to identify and map several watercourses and failing to indicate on the exemption form that a significant archaeological site was located within the footprint of the exemption. Whittier's failures demonstrated a pattern in practice in this regard as the RPF was disciplined for similar failures of professional

responsibility on prior emergency notices.

Therefore, under authority of PRC 778 (b) and as provided in regulation under 14 CCR 1612.1 (c), the Board and RPF Whittier mutually agreed to enter into a stipulated settlement that provides for the following disciplinary items.

- 1) Suspension of License for six months.
- 2) License probation for two years.
- 3) RPF Whittier will not violate the FPA, PFL or any related regulations during probation.
- 4) While on suspension, RPF Whittier will work under the supervision of a valid RPF and during probation will submit work product for review to the supervisory RPF at RPF Whittier's expense.
- 5) RPF Whittier will provide Archaeological work product for review to a professional Archaeologist at RPF Whittier's expense.

## **Outreach for Future RPFs** by Dan Stapleton

Since the last edition of Licensing News, Forestry Educators Incorporated (FEI) have provided in-person outreach presentations to the following conventions:

- Forest Professionals B.C. Conference, Kelowna, B.C.
- Career and Technical Education Conference, Sacramento, CA

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](mailto:dan.stapleton@fire.ca.gov).

## **April 2024 Passing RPF and CRM Examinees**

Darrik Carlson  
Rodrigo Vargas-Rosales  
Camille Swezy  
Lewis Campbell  
Natalie Fulton  
Michelle Katuna, CRM

Ian Moore  
Alexander Pancoast  
Kyle Renner  
Renny Winter  
Leana Weissberg  
Kaveh Motamed, CRM

## **October 2023 Passing RPF and CRM Examinees**

Gregory Dion	Karl Wood
Maxwell Roecklein	Mathew Lewis
David Murray	Michael Jones
Walter Mackelburg	Miles Schack
Ann Anderson	Pablo Anguiano
Jeremy Zagarella	Quinn Bunstock de Hinojosa
Zachary Erickson	Chris Riddle
Sean Martin	Jack Singer
Justin Barrett	Rebecca Lindemann
Alexandria Fletcher	Shelby Kranich
Adam Taylor	Mathew Costa
Cody Easton	Neil Manich
David Cowman	Karine Hunt
Evan Goetz	Rachel Daunt
John Andreas	Atalie Brown, CRM
Alex Hepler, CRM	

## **Research Readings**

**Introductory Report; Analysis of Threats to Mature and Old-Growth Forests on Lands Managed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management,** *Fulfillment of Executive Order 14072, Section 2.c.ii, FS-1242a, January 2024*

### **Overview**

Executive Order (EO) 14072—Strengthening the Nation’s Forests, Communities, and Local Economies—instructed the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service to implement a set of actions focused on the health of the Nation’s forests. Section 2.c.(ii) directed the agencies to analyze the threats to mature and old-growth forests on Federal lands, including from wildfires and climate change. To fulfill this direction, the agencies are creating a full report that will be available in early 2024. This introductory report summarizes initial key findings.

### **Key Findings**

The initial threat analysis found that mature and old-growth forests have high exposure to a variety of threats and climate and disturbance projections show this exposure will likely increase. Currently, wildfire, exacerbated by climate change and fire exclusion, is the leading threat to mature and old-growth forests, followed by insects and disease.

Tree cutting (any removal of trees) is currently a relatively minor threat despite having been a major disturbance historically. The analysis also found that two thirds of mature forests and just over half of old-growth forests are vulnerable to these threats. Climate change has increased the level of these threats and is likely altering where, and what types of mature and old-growth forests can persist. Over the next five decades, the growth of younger and mature forests is projected to result in an increase of mature and old-growth forests despite increasing disturbances. However, gains lessen with each passing decade and the expanding wildland-urban interface complicates mitigation of threats.

Since 2000, wildfires resulted in a decrease of an estimated 2.57 million acres of mature and 712,000 acres of old-growth forests on National Forest System (NFS) and BLM lands. Insects and disease caused a decrease of 1.86 million acres of mature and 182,000 acres of old growth. Tree cutting by the BLM and Forest Service resulted in a decrease of 214,000 acres of mature forests and 9,000 acres of old growth. Where no forest disturbances have occurred, mature forests increased by 2.21 million acres and old-growth forests by 1.20 million acres. Combined, there has been a 2.51-million-acre net decline of mature forests, with about a tenth of this becoming old growth (a 0.28-million-acre net increase in old growth). Click [HERE](#) to view the rest of the report.

## **Scattered tree death contributes to substantial forest loss in**

**California** *Yan Cheng, Stefan Oehmcke, Martin Brandt, Lisa Rosenthal, Adrian Das, Anton Vrieling, Sassan Saatchi, Fabien Wagner, Maurice Mugabowindekwe, Wim Verbruggen, Claus Beier & Stéphanie Horion. Nature Communications volume 15, Article number: 641 (2024)*

### **Abstract**

In recent years, large-scale tree mortality events linked to global change have occurred around the world. Current forest monitoring methods are crucial for identifying mortality hotspots, but systematic assessments of isolated or scattered dead trees over large areas are needed to reduce uncertainty on the actual extent of tree mortality. Here, we mapped individual dead trees in California using sub-meter resolution aerial photographs from 2020 and deep learning-based dead tree detection. We identified 91.4 million dead trees over 27.8 million hectares of vegetated areas (16.7-24.7% underestimation bias when compared to field data). Among these, a total of 19.5 million dead trees appeared isolated, and 60% of all dead trees occurred in small groups ( $\leq 3$  dead trees within a  $30 \times 30$  m grid), which is largely undetected by other state-level monitoring methods. The widespread mortality of individual trees impacts the carbon budget and sequestration capacity of California forests and can be considered a threat to forest health and a fuel source for future wildfires. Click [HERE](#) to view the rest of the report.

## **Timber Tax Update Second 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) May 15, 2024.*

Here we are on May 15<sup>th</sup> discussing what the taxable harvest values will be for the second half of this year. Industry has finally caught up on cleaning up the large backlog of fire salvage that had accumulated over the last four years. Pretty much all of the hot burn, or high intensity burn has been harvested. Because California does not have enough milling capacity to handle the large amount of salvage that came on the market in such a relatively short period of time, there are many areas that will go unharvested because the wood is no longer salvageable, or the economics just aren't there. The minor amount of fire salvage still remaining is to trees that survived the actual fires and are now succumbing to secondary die back due to stress from high heat exposure, sun scalding to scattered trees with sudden extreme over-exposure to direct sun, insects, disease, blowdown, lack of sufficient rainfall, or any combination of these factors. This is sometimes also referred to as a dirty-burn or soft-burn.

The scaling data that we gather from all of the independent scaling bureaus scaling logs in California indicates that the gross volume scaled in the first four months of this year is up 5.6% as compared to this same time last year. This increase is primarily due to harvesting from the large industrial timberland owners harvesting from their own company owned fee lands. The markets statewide are in the process of transitioning from fire salvage to green timber, and so far, not many new open-market sales of green timber have occurred to this point. This is likely due to the fact that a large number of acres from small private timberlands burned up in many of the recent fires, so less green timber is available for harvest. That, coupled with the fact that most independent foresters working for smaller landowners have been focused on obtaining salvage harvest permits and haven't had enough time to go through the lengthy approval process of obtaining green timber harvest plans for their clients.

Although quotes for log prices as well as lumber prices have both been up so far this year, not many new open-market sales have transacted to this point. While there are some indicators that a brighter outlook for the second half of the year lies ahead, the overall economy is still soft and uncertain. Just when inflation and prices seem to be in decline, they start trending back up again. Fuel costs have steadily been increasing since the beginning of the year. The Fed is hesitant to drop interest rates for fear of raising inflation. According to a *Trading Economics* report, new housing starts dropped 14.7% in first quarter from what was originally expected, while some economists are predicting an overall bullish stock market for this year. With the controversy of this year's presidential election, conflicts overseas, and a large state budget deficit comes

many other possible unknowns that may contribute to an uncertain economy and what the timber markets will be like 6-months from now. These are all things our appraisal staff wrestles with and considers when preparing the timber values before you today. But, as is always the case, the best our appraisers can do is to follow the data.

The adopted harvest value schedules from the May 15, 2024 meeting can be found [HERE](#).

### **Decades of fuel treatments on BLM land helped stop Darlene 3 Fire that threatened La Pine 'in its tracks,' agency says**



July 2, 2024, PRINEVILLE, Ore. (KTVZ) — A week ago, the Darlene 3 wildfire broke out on public lands near the community of La Pine. "Fortunately, decades of land treatments performed by the Bureau of Land Management helped stop the fire in its tracks," the agency said Tuesday.

The Darlene 3 Fire began the afternoon of Tuesday, June 25, in Deschutes County. By Thursday, it had grown to over 3,000 acres, the BLM said in a news release.

The west flank of the fire headed toward the city of La Pine, home to over 2,000 people and located 30 miles southwest of Bend.

"Decades of extensive fuel treatments in the area performed by the BLM Prineville District Division of Fire and Aviation Management and partners, as well as a rapid response from local fire teams, prevented the fire from reaching the town," the agency said.

"This outcome was the result of a series of fuel treatments, not just one," said James Osborne, BLM Prineville District Fire Management Officer. "Extensive fuel treatments around the city of La Pine done over numerous years have been highly effective in stopping previous fires, as well as this one. We continue to see that benefit."

"The Bureau of Land Management has been doing work in this area since the '80s, since before they were called 'fuels treatments,'" said Rob Fore, BLM Prineville District Fuels Program Manager. "But in recent years, we have been more strategic. We are intentional with the kind of fuels treatments we choose and where we line them up on the landscape."

These intentional treatments include hand thinning, mowing, masticating, and prescribed burning. BLM teams completed hand-thinning work, or the wintertime piling of materials to later burn, as recently as 2021.

Wildfire prevention is not the only goal of fuels treatments.

"Treatments don't just reduce hazard fuels to help firefighters protect communities," said Alison Dean, BLM Prineville District fire ecologist. "They also help restore the historical fire regime and the ecological health of the forest. They allow forests to regain resiliency to insect infestations and climate change, as well as future fires."

The work doesn't stop after one success. Along with continued community engagement with fire suppression partners across central Oregon, the BLM said its fire and aviation teams will continue tending to the land.

"The longevity of these treatments is ten to fifteen years max," said Dean. "They need maintenance. The brush will be back."

"We have done and will continue to do maintenance around La Pine," said Osborne.

"We plan to continue maintenance treatments as well as begin new treatments on our own and with our partners."

By KTVZ news sources



**Douglas-fir and coast redwood plantations, Cement Creek Redwoods Park, Victoria Australia.** In my role as editor of the Licensing News, I am always on the lookout for interesting forestry related subject matter. In this instance, the above photo gleaned from Facebook led to my interest in Cement Creek State Park, Victoria, Australia. Per the [Heritage Council Victoria](#) website, "Cement Creek Plantation is historically significant for its association with the provision of Melbourne's clean water supply. It demonstrates the MMBW's scientific endeavors from



the 1920s and 1930s to ensure water purity in catchment areas which had been degraded through decades of farming, fires and logging of native forests. Part of an extensive revegetation program, this experimental plantation tested the potential of conifer species to improve land and water quality, as well as for their commercial timber potential. By the 1960s and 1970s, it was the site of the MMBW's hydrological research to establish the impact of commercial timber growing in water catchment areas."

**N**



## **LOST IN THE WOODS**

**Unless renewed, the following registrants will have their licenses revoked for non-payment at the September Board of Forestry meeting:**

STEPHEN	FUNK	ROBERT	BRODERICK
Brandon	McClintic	DAN	HOWELL
Connor	Kennedy	MERRITT	LINDGREN
Mark	Ogren	NEAL	EWALD
JOHN	BRAMHALL	JAMES	BAWCOM
ROBERT	CATES	JOSEPH	CINEK
THERESA	BECCHETTI	MATHEW	BOONE
ALAN	BOWER	EDGAR	ORRE
HENRY	GIACOMINI	EDWARD	MAGRINI
DONALD	NEAL	SARAH	DAWE
FADZAYI	MASHIRI	BRUCE	BECK
Lisa	Gonzales-Kramer	STEVEN	ZIEGLER
STEPHEN	BAKKEN	CATHY	BLEIER
DAVID	LOVELESS	JANE	LABOA
ANASTASIA	STANISH	REX	CLARK
PAUL	RICH	RICHARD	CARSON
MATHEW	COCKING		

**XX End XX**