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Note: Authority cited: Section 759, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 761

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Public Resources Code.

All correspondence relating to Professional Foresters Registration, including

remittances and renewal fees, shall be directed to the principal offices of the State

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection located in the Resources Building, 1416 Ninth

Street, Sacramento, or by mail to P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, California 94244-

§ 1602. Professional Forestry Practice Defined.

(a) The phrase "act in the capacity of . . . a professional forester . . ." pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC), Section 766 refers to any person who is working in a responsible position as an individual or through the supervision of others, and performs services on forested landscapes applicable to "forestry" as defined in PRC, Section 753 and clarified herein. Forestry requires specific knowledge of forestry principles for providing advice to, or management for, employers, clients, or others, through consultation; through conduct of investigations in forestry matters which have potential environmental effects, or are for site-specific purposes; through evaluation of forest properties; and through the planning or execution of forest programs, management, operations, and/or treatment.

(b) A Registered Professional Forester (RPF) shall perform forestry services only in those subjects in which he or she is competent by training or experience. Thus, for an RPF to accomplish a site-specific forestry project where the RPF's prudent level of expertise is surpassed, that RPF may need to utilize the services of other qualified experts including but not limited to geologists, landscape architects, engineers and land

surveyors, archaeologists, botanists, ecologists, fisheries biologists, stream restorationists, wildlife biologists, hydrologists, range scientists, soil scientists, and certified specialists established pursuant to PRC 772.

(c) In carrying out PRC, Section 772, a Certified Specialist shall perform only those services in his or her specialty, as <u>described in Chapter 10</u>, <u>Division 1.5</u>, <u>Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations defined herein</u>. Nothing in this section shall preclude certified specialists or the other environmental professionals in subsection (b) from the application of scientific knowledge in their field of expertise outside the practice of forestry.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 759 and 766, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 752, 753 and 766, Public Resources Code.

§ 1610. Delegation of Certain Functions.

(a) The power and discretion conferred by law upon the Board to receive and file accusations; issue notices of hearings, statements to respondent and statements of issues; receive and file notices of defense; determine the time and place of hearings under Section 11508 of the Government Code, issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum, set and calendar cases for hearing and perform other functions necessary to the dispatch of the business of the Board in the Government Code prior to the hearing of such proceeding; and the certification and delivery of mailing of copies of decisions under Section 11518 of said Code are hereby delegated to and conferred upon the Beard's_eExecutive eOfficer, or, if absent from the office of the Board, another person designated by the eExecutive eOfficer.

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(b) Nothing herein prohibits the <u>●E</u>xecutive <u>●O</u>fficer from redelegating duties to <u>their</u>his subordinates as provided in Section 18572 of the Government Code.

(c) Unless otherwise directed by the Board, the eExecutive eOfficer may work directly with the eCommittee on those matters which are pertinent to the Professional Foresters Law, Section 750 et seq. of the Code. The eExecutive eOfficer may be designated by the eCommittee to report to the Board on its behalf.

Note: Authority cited: Section 759, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 763, Public Resources Code.

In addition to other responsibilities under the Code, Registered Professional

1611.5. Professional Standards and Responsibilities

Foresters and certified specialists have professional responsibilities and must comply with professional standards in connection with their relationships with clients, employers, and the public. The particular standards and responsibilities depend upon the nature of the business relationship and associated legal obligations. It is incumbent upon the licensee or certificant to be aware of these responsibilities. Failure to comply with such standards and responsibilities may subject the licensee or certificant to legal liability.

(b) When an agency relationship exists between a client and the licensee or certificant, the law imposes strict and specific obligations on the part of the licensee or certificant, as the agent, with respect to the client, as the principal. These obligations are generally set forth in the California Civil Code beginning at Section 2295, and as interpreted by California courts. These obligations may include: (1) exercising reasonable skill and diligence in carrying out the work to be performed; (2) avoiding any conflict of interest

1	without full disclosure and consent by the principal; and (3) acting in a fiduciary capacity
2	with respect to the principal. Conflicts of interest and fiduciary responsibilities are
3	discussed below.
4	(c) In general, a conflict of interest occurs in an agency relationship when the agent is in
5	a situation or participates in activities that are adverse to the interest of the principal.
6	This could occur, for example, where the agent has a personal interest in a business
7	transaction, or has another client with an interest in the business transaction, such that
8	they affect or interfere with one another. Court decisions provide a body of law
9	pertaining to the responsibilities of agents in situations where there is a conflict of
10	interest. Licensees or certificants acting as agents should avoid conflicts of interest,
11	and the appearance of conflicts of interest, and fully disclose such conflicts and obtain
12	the consent of their clients.
13	(d) A fiduciary relationship occurs when there is a relationship between parties to a
14	transaction in which one of the parties has an obligation to act with the utmost good
15	faith for the benefit of the other party. An agency relationship is one in which fiduciary
16	responsibilities arise. Among other obligations, an agent as a fiduciary must give
17	priority to the best interests of the client, keep the client fully informed of all information
18	relevant to the subject matter of the relationship, and must account to the client.
19	(e) Failure to comply with the applicable professional standards and responsibilities may
20	subject the licensee or certificant to legal liability, which is separate and distinct from
21	disciplinary action under the authority of the Board.
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23	Note: Authority cited: Section 759, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 775
24	and 777, Public Resources Code.

§ 1612. Discipline.

The <u>Committee</u> may, upon its own motion, and shall upon motion of the Board or upon the verified complaint in writing of any person, cause investigation to be made of the actions of any person licensed as a professional forester or <u>Certified Specialist</u>. The committee shall make recommendations to the Board for any action provided by law.

Note: Authority cited: Section 759, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 775 and 777, Public Resources Code.

§ 1612.1. Disciplinary Guidelines.

The Board establishes these guidelines to ensure that consequences in any disciplinary action of a Registered Professional Forester or ©Certified Specialist are known, and to facilitate uniformity of penalties. While recognizing that Administrative Law Judges must be free to exercise their discretion in a particular case, the Board desires that these guidelines be followed to the extent possible, and that any departures therefrom be noted and explained in the proposed decision.

The Board further desires that matters in extenuation and mitigation, as well as those in aggravation, be fully considered and noted in the proposed decision. The primary importance is the adverse effect the Registered Professional Forester's or ecertified especialist's actions had, or will continue to have, on the protection of the public

interest.

- (a) If convicted of a felony as defined in Section 778(a) and governed by Section 778.5,
- 23 | Public Resources Code, the ranges of disciplinary action for conviction(s) are:
- 24 | Maximum: Revocation of the license.
 - Minimum: Revocation stayed for 2 years on the following conditions:

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Maximum: Revocation of the license or specialty certificate.

Minimum: 90 days suspension stayed for 1 year with 15 days actual suspension, and one or more of the following:

- (2) The respondent shall obey all laws and regulations related to the practice of forestry.
- (b) If found guilty of fraud, deceit or gross negligence in his or her practice, governed by Public Resources Code, Section 778(b), the ranges of disciplinary action for violation(s) are:
- Maximum: Revocation of the license or specialty certificate.
- Minimum: 6 months suspension stayed for 1 year on the following conditions:
 - (1) Actual suspension for 60 days.
 - (2) Within one year of the effective date of the Board's decision, the respondent shall successfully complete a training program, approved in advance by the Board as being specifically related to the area(s) of professional failure.
 - (3) Respondent must practice, for up to one year, with the review of work products by a Registered Professional Forester, or other specialist, as approved by the Board.
 - (4) The respondent shall obey all laws and regulations related to the practice of
- (c) If found guilty of misrepresentation or material misstatement of fact in his or her practice, governed by Public Resources Code, Section 778(b), the ranges of disciplinary action for the violation(s) are:

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- (1) Within one year of the effective date of the Board's decision, the respondent shall successfully complete a training program, approved in advance by the Board as being specifically related to the area(s) of professional failure.
- (2) Respondent must practice, for up to one year, with review of work products by a Registered Professional Forester or other certified specialist, as-applicable- as approved by the Board.
- (3) The respondent shall obey all laws and regulations related to the practice of forestry.
- (d) If found guilty of incompetence governed by Section 778(b), Public Resources Code, in his or her practice, the ranges of disciplinary action for violation(s) are:

Maximum: Revocation of the license or specialty certificate.

Minimum: Revocation stayed up to 3 years with license suspension until the completion of all of the following conditions:

- (1) The respondent shall successfully complete a training program, approved in advance by the Board, specifically related to the area of incompetency, and
- (2) The respondent shall take and be notified of passing the Registered Professional Foresters examination, and
- (3) Respondent must work, at least six months full time equivalent, under the supervision of a Registered Professional Forester, with review of work products, as approved by the Board.
- (4) The respondent shall obey all laws and regulations related to the practice of forestry.
- (e) If found guilty of fraud or deceit in obtaining a license, governed by Section 778(c), Public Resources Code, the ranges of disciplinary action for violation(s) are:

 Recommended Action: Revocation of the license.

decision becomes effective, a complete list of all business and/or client names,

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addresses, and phone numbers with whom a current contractual or employment relationship exists. Furthermore, respondent shall notify the Board within ten (10) days of any new contractual or employment relationships over the duration of the stayed order. This information may be used to aid the Board in monitoring the performance of respondent over the period of the stayed order.

- (2) Board to notify each business and/or client name submitted, or at its option require respondent to notify with Board approved language and proof of notification, of the offense(s), findings and discipline imposed.
- (b) The Board shall provide public notice of disciplinary actions. The Board shall comply with the following standards when providing public notice:
 - (1) When the RPF or <u>€Certified <u>€Specialist</u> is exonerated, their name and the specifics of the cases will not be made public. A summary of the case will be noticed in "Licensing News", and will include the following:</u>
 - (A) Case number.
 - (B) Allegation: citing possible cause(s) of action under 14 CCR § 1612.1.
 - (C) Authority: citations of applicable statutory and regulatory sections.
 - (D) Action: announcement of the exoneration and a general summary of the facts of the case.
 - (2) When disciplinary action results in the issuance of a PFEC Letter of Concern or Private Board Reprimand, the name of the RPF or ecertified especialist and license or specialty certificate number and specifics of the case will not be made public. A summary of the case will be noticed in "Licensing News", and will include the following:
 - (A) Case number.
 - (B) Allegation: citing possible cause(s) of action under 14 CCR § 1612.1.

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- (C) Authority: citations of applicable statutory and regulatory sections.
- (D) Action: announcement of the disciplinary action taken and a general summary of the facts of the case.
- (3) When disciplinary action results in license or specialty certificate suspension or revocation, the name of the RPF or ecertified especialist and the specifics of the case will be made public. A summary of the case will be noticed in the "Daily Recorder", "Licensing News", the meeting minutes of the Board, and announced in open session of the Board meeting at which the discipline was approved. These notices will include the following:
 - (A) Case number.
 - (B) RPF nName and license number of RPF or eCertified sSpecialist.
 - (C) City of business at the time of notice.
 - (D) Allegation: citing possible cause(s) of action under 14 CCR § 1612.1.
 - (E) Authority: citations of applicable statutory and regulatory sections.
 - (F) Action: announcement of the disciplinary action taken and a specific summary of the facts of the case.
- (4) The information summarized in "Licensing News" under (b)(1), (b)(2), and (b)(3) above shall be available upon request to the public.
- (c) The Board may provide notice to the news media of disciplinary actions. The Board shall comply with the following standards when providing notice to the media.
 - (1) Media releases shall occur in all instances when disciplinary action results in the following:
 - (A) Suspension or revocation based on any of the following cause(s):
 - (i) eConviction of a felony as defined in Section 778(a) and governed by Section 778.5 of the Public Resources Code.

with any terms of parole, probation, restitution, or any other sanctions lawfully imposed

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against the applicant.

1	(e) Evidence, if any, of rehabilitation submitted by the applicant.
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3	Note: Authority cited: Sections 759, 774, and 777, Public Resources Code. Reference:
4	Sections 774 and 777, Public Resources Code; and Section 11522, Government Code.
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6	Article 2. Applications.
7	§ 1620. Applications.
8	(a) Applications for registration as a professional forester or as a certified forestry
9	specialist shall be:
10	(1) Filed on a form prescribed by the Board.
11	(2) Filed at the Sacramento office of the Board, and accompanied by the required
12	application fee.
13	(3) Subscribed and certified to "under penalty of perjury" as provided by Section
14	2015.5, Code of Civil Procedure.
15	(4) Typewritten, except that applicants located without access to typewriters, may
16	so state, and submit applications printed legibly by hand.
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18	Note: Authority cited: Sections 759 and 772, Public Resources Code. Reference:
19	Sections 767 and 772, Public Resources Code.
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21	Article 4. Miscellaneous.
22	§ 1650. Specialties.
23	(a) As an alternative to being registered as a RPF, any person qualified pursuant to this
24	Article is eligible for certification in a specialty. Both RPFs and non-RPFs are eligible for

certification in a specialty. Only a person registered as a Certified Specialist may use the title of that specialty.

- A certificate in each specialty created will be issued by the Board pursuant to the standards contained in Section 772 of the Code. Specialties will be created by regulation as the need arises.
- (b) To protect the public interest, tThe following certified specialties shall be implemented and overseen by the Executive Officer, with the assistance of the PFECExamining Committee:
 - (1) Certified Rangeland Management Specialty
- (c) For independent certification programs submitted to the Board by a professional society or public agency pursuant to Section 772 of the Code, to protect the public interest the following process and requirements shall apply:
 - (1) When a professional society or public agency establishes an internal certification panel for any or all of the following purposes: reviewing an applicant's qualifications, administering an examination to evaluate an applicant's professional understanding; awarding certifications; reviewing or advising the PFEC regarding allegations of misconduct; and administering discipline; the panel members shall have first been certified by the Board as meeting the professional qualifications and standards for that Ccertified Sepecialty before undertaking their responsibilities pursuant to this Section. The certification of the panel members may be done by a subcommittee of the PFEC appointed by the Board and composed of resource professionals in good standing representing a broad cross section of employment and expertise in that specialty. All subsequent panel members shall also be certified in this manner.

- (2) The PFEC shall be notified by the <u>professional appropriate</u> society or public agency of any Certified Specialist who is guilty of violations of professional standards and is issued discipline pursuant to the respective certification program—if applicable. Subsequent to being granted the specialty certificate by the Board, Tthe Certified Specialist shall be subject to disciplinary actions by the Board as defined in this chapter for violation of those standards, or for violation of those standards promulgated by the Board pursuant to Sections 775 through 778 of the Code, and any regulations promulgated thereunder. For disciplinary action pursuant to subsection (c) of Section 778 of the Code, the professional society or public agency establishing the independent certification program shall provide such information related to demonstration of any fraud or deceit by an applicant in obtaining their registration or certification to the PFEC upon request by the PFECae reasonably requested. The professional society or public agency shall inform the PFEC of all complaints of violations or other misconduct relating to any Certified Specialist.
- (3) The PFEC shall be notified of any proposed actions to be taken by a professional society or public agency which may affect the specialty certification program of the society or public agency, including but not limited to modification of the requirements for certification or professional accountability. Any modifications to a specialty certification program must be approved by the PFEC prior to implementation. or the program may be rejected by the Board. The mModifications that shall not significantly alter the qualifications and accountability within the recognized certification program must be approved by the Board original certification.

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- (4) Prior to March 1 of each calendar year, those Pprofessional Ssocieties and public agencies with recognized preved independent certification programs shall submit to the executive eOfficer of the PFEC a report which describes the previous calendar year accomplishments of the certification program, including but not limited to the number of applicants for certification, the approvals, denials, copies of examinations, and a summary of disciplinary actions, to insure the program fully protects the public interest. Failure to submit the report may result in a full review which may result in the rejection of the Ccertification program by the Board.
- (d) All Certified Specialists are subject to annual registration and fees for renewal of Sspecialty Ccertificates pursuant to 14 CCR, Sections 1605 and 1607. Additional fees may be required by the professional society or public agency responsible for the independent certification program.
- (e) The professional society or public agency shall submit for Board recognition its independent certification program, and any other information reasonably requested by the Board, as full qualification without examination for the Board's certificate of specialization. Upon determination by the Board that the program fully protects the public interest in the area of practice encompassed by the program, the certification as a specialist shall be granted, provided the specialist has met the requirements under the program. Upon recognition by the Board of an independent certification program, the terms of the program shall be made publicly available by the professional society or public agency and posted on the Board's website.
- (f) The Board may, from time to time, review an independent certification program which it has recognized pursuant to PRC § 772 to ensure the program fully protects the public interest. The Board may rescind its recognition of the independent certification

Note: Authority cited: Sections 759 and 762, Public Resources Code. Reference:

Sections 762 and 772, Public Resources Code.

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§ 1651. Certified Rangeland Management Specialty.

- (a) A "Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM)" is a person who provides services pursuant to <u>Title</u> 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 <u>on forested landscapes</u>, as defined in California Public <u>Resources Code § 754</u>. A <u>CRMCertified Rangeland Manager</u> shall perform professional services only in those subjects in which he or she is competent by training and experience.
- (b) When a CRM is providing range management services related to the production of forage and livestock on forested landscapes, an RPF shall be consulted if there are potential impacts on related forest resources.
- (c) Qualifications as a <u>CRMCertified Rangeland Manager</u> may be achieved by submitting to the <u>Board</u> evidence of certification by the <u>professional society or public</u> agency recognized under <u>Public Resources Code § 772California Section of the Society for Range Management (CA-SRM)</u> as a Certified Rangeland Manager, <u>subject to 14</u> CCR § 1650. The Board shall grant a specialty certificate upon (i) receiving <u>satisfactory</u> evidence that the applicant has met the CRM qualifications <u>under the terms of the</u>

Sections 762 and 772, Public Resources Code.