



BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION -

Professional Foresters -

Laws and Regulations -

2021 California Forest Practice Rules

PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS LAW

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Public Resources Code Sections 750-783, Division 1, Administration, Chapter 2.5 Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Article 3. Professional Foresters.

750. Short title.

This article may be known and cited as the Professional Foresters Law.

751. Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to declare the existence of a public interest in the management and treatment of the forest resources and Timberlands of this state and to provide for the regulation of persons who practice the profession of forestry and whose activities have an Impact upon the ecology of forested landscapes and the quality of the forest environment, and through that regulation to enhance the control of air and water pollution, the preservation of scenic beauty, the protection of watersheds by flood and soil erosion control, the production and increased yield of natural resources, including timber, forage, wildlife, and water, and outdoor recreation, to meet the needs of the people.

752. Professional forester; scope of license and expertise.

(a) "Professional forester," as used in this article, means a person who, by reason of his or her knowledge of the natural sciences, mathematics, and the principles of forestry, acquired by forestry education and experience, performs services, including, but not limited to, consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, or responsible supervision of forestry activities when those professional services require the application of forestry principles and techniques.

(b) A professional forester is licensed to perform forestry services only in those areas of expertise in which the person is fully competent as a result of training or experience. In order for a professional forester to fulfill all of his or her responsibilities with regard to a particular activity on a site, if the expertise that is prudently required exceeds the expertise possessed by the professional forester in that regard, the professional forester may need to utilize the services of other qualified experts, including, but not limited to, archaeologists, botanists, civil engineers, ecologists, fisheries biologists, geologists, hydrologists, land surveyors, landscape architects, range scientists, soil scientists, or wildlife biologists. Nothing in this article shall preclude those other environmental professionals from the application of their knowledge in their field of expertise outside the practice of forestry, as defined in Section 753.

753. Forestry.

"Forestry," as used in this article, refers to the science and practice of managing forested landscapes and the treatment of the forest cover in general, and includes, among other things, the application of scientific knowledge and forestry principles in the fields of fuels management and forest protection, timber growing and utilization, forest inventories, forest economics, forest valuation and finance, and the evaluation and mitigation of Impacts from forestry activities on watershed and scenic values, to achieve the purposes of this article. The practice of forestry applies only to those activities undertaken on forested landscapes. The professions specified in Section 772 are not practicing forestry when mitigating or recommending mitigation of Impacts from previous forestry activities on related watershed or ecological values within their area of professional expertise or when recommending those mitigations for proposed Timber Operations. However, public and private foresters are required to be licensed pursuant to this article when making evaluations and determinations of the appropriate overall combination of mitigations of Impacts from forestry activities necessary to protect all forest resources.

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754. Forested landscapes.

“Forested landscapes” means those tree dominated landscapes and their associated vegetation types on which there is growing a significant stand of tree species, or which are naturally capable of growing a significant stand of native trees in perpetuity, and is not otherwise devoted to non-forestry commercial, urban, or farming uses.

755. Person.

“Person” as used in this article means any natural person.

756. Supervision of forestry work by registered professional forester.

Nothing in this article prohibits any person from engaging in those activities otherwise restricted to professional foresters, certified specialists, or qualified but exempt certificants, provided a registrant is in charge of the professional practice or work of that person and all professional work or documents are done by or under the supervision of the registrant.

757. Landowner; exception.

The provisions of this article do not apply to any landowner who is a natural person and who personally performs services of a professional forester, when such services are personally performed on lands owned by him.

758. Professional forester not authorized to practice civil engineering, land surveying, or landscape architecture.

This article shall not be construed to authorize a registered professional forester to practice civil engineering as defined in Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code or to practice land surveying as defined in Chapter 15 (commencing with Section 8700) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code or to practice landscape architecture, as defined in Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 5615) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code.

759. Rules and regulations.

The board may by regulation adopt such Rules and regulations pursuant to Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 11371) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, as it determines are reasonably necessary to enable it to carry into effect the provisions of this article.

760. Meetings to consider registration matters; time.

The board shall consider matters pertaining to the registration of professional foresters at least once every six months at regular meetings and may, as necessary, meet solely for the purpose of considering matters to carry out the provisions of this article.

760.5. Staff personnel; executive officer; civil service.

The board may hire the clerical and secretarial employees, technical personnel, and other staff who are necessary and budgeted to properly assist the work of the board in carrying out the purposes of this article. This staff personnel shall be subject to the relevant system and procedures of the state civil service. The provisions of the State Civil Service Act contained in Part 2 (commencing with Section 18500) of Division 5 of Title 2 of the Government Code shall apply to that personnel. The executive officer shall be an employee exempt from civil service.

761. Records.

The board shall keep a complete record of all applications for registration and certification and the board’s action thereon.

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762. Certificates of specialization.

The board may by regulation provide for the issuance of certificates of specialization in such fields of specialization as the board may by regulation establish.

763. Examining committee; membership; duties.

(a) The board shall establish an examining committee of at least seven members composed of the following, who shall be appointed by the board and serve at its pleasure:

(1) Two public members with one selected from the membership of the board.

(2) At least four professional foresters in good standing representing a broad cross section of employment and expertise.

(3) At least one certified specialist registered pursuant to Section 772 in good standing. If a certified specialist is not available to serve on the committee, this position shall be replaced by an additional professional forester in good standing.

(b) The examining committee shall do all of the following:

(1) Examine all applicants for registration as professional foresters and for specialty certificates.

(2) Recommend to the board applicants for the license of professional forester and applicants for specialty certificates who fulfill the requirements of this article.

(3) Review complaints, which review may include independent investigations or expert witness evaluations, and make disciplinary recommendations to the board.

(4) Establish ad hoc committees as needed with representatives of certified specialists.

(5) Recommend to the board whether an independent certification program qualifies for recognition under Section 754.

(6) Recommend adoption of the Rules and regulations or changes in Rules and regulations which may be needed to effect this article.

764. Examining committee; compensation; expenses.

Any person appointed to serve upon the examining committee shall receive, if requested, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each day during which he or she is engaged in the performance of his or her official duties, except that the compensation of each member shall not exceed in any one fiscal year the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000). In addition, each member shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of his or her duties, including travel, at state rates.

765. Examining committee; appeals.

The examining committee shall adhere to the Rules and regulations of the board. Any applicant for a license pursuant to this article who contends that he has been aggrieved by any action taken by the examining committee with respect to his qualifications may appeal to the board in accordance with Rules or regulations prescribed by the board. The board on such appeal may administer an oral or written examination to the applicant as an aid in determining whether the applicant is qualified under the terms of this article.

766. Necessity of registration.

On and after July 1, 1973, it shall be unlawful for any person to act in the capacity of, or to use the title of, a professional forester without being registered pursuant to this article, unless exempted from the provisions thereof.

767. Application for license; fee.

An applicant for a license pursuant to this article shall apply to the board. Such application shall be accompanied by the payment of a fee in an amount fixed by the provisions of this article.

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768. Demonstration of experience and knowledge.

The board shall require an applicant to demonstrate such degree of experience and such general knowledge of the profession of forestry as the board deems necessary for the protection of the public.

769. Qualifications.

An applicant shall meet all of the following qualifications:

(a) Be of good moral character and have a good reputation for honesty and integrity.

(b) Furnish evidence of having completed seven years of experience in forestry work.

Possession of a degree of bachelor of science, or equivalent degree as determined by the board, with a major in forestry, shall be deemed equivalent to four years of experience in the actual practice of forestry work. At least three of the seven years of experience shall include having charge of forestry work, or forestry work under the supervision of a person registered, or qualified for, but exempt from, registration under the provision of this article. Work completed prior to July 1, 1973, shall qualify if it was under the supervision of a qualified forester, as defined in Section 754. The award of a master of forestry degree shall be acceptable as evidence of one year of such qualifying experience.

(c) Has successfully completed such examination or examinations as are prescribed by the board.

770. Examinations.

(a) Examinations shall be given by the board as often as it is deemed necessary, but at least every six months.

(b) The examination may consist of both written and oral portions. A grade of 75 percent shall be necessary for successful completion of the examination.

771. Reexamination.

An applicant failing in an examination may be examined again upon filing a new application and paying the application fee.

772. Certified specialist; registration; specialties.

Instead of being registered as a professional forester, an applicant may request to be registered as a certified specialist in one or more fields of forestry. Nothing in this article shall authorize the board to certify or otherwise license wildlife biologists, fisheries biologists, botanists, ecological restorationists, stream restorationists, hydrologists, or geologists. Registration in a specialty area does not prohibit a professional forester from providing services within that professional forester's area of expertise. Any public agency or professional society may submit for board recognition its independent certification program as full qualification without examination for the board's certificate of specialization. That certification as a specialist shall be granted provided the board determines the program fully protects the public interest in that area of practice encompassed by the program. Those certificants are subject to board registration and discipline with review by that specialty.

773. Licenses and specialty certificates; expiration.

Licenses and specialty certificates issued pursuant to this article shall be valid for two years and shall expire on July 1 of each alternating year.

774. Denial of license; reapplication conditions.

(a) Issuance of a license may be denied if sufficient evidence is received by the board of the commission or doing by the applicant of any act which, if committed or done by a licensee, would be grounds for the suspension or revocation of his license.

(b) In any decision denying an application, the board may provide that it will accept no future application from the applicant until he complies with specified conditions. No condition may be required by the board that is not just and reasonable.

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775. Investigations; suspension or revocation of license.

The board may upon its own motion, and shall upon the verified complaint in writing of any person, cause investigation to be made of the actions of any person licensed pursuant to this article, and may temporarily suspend or permanently revoke the license of any person who is guilty of or commits any one or more of the acts or omissions constituting cause for disciplinary action.

776. Limitations of actions; law governing.

Any accusation against a registrant or a certificant shall be filed within five years after the act or omission alleged as the ground for disciplinary action. The proceedings under this article shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code and the board has all the powers granted in that chapter.

777. Mode of discipline.

If the board finds against the registrant, the board, in its decision, may terminate all operations of the registrant during the period fixed by the decision, except those operations the board determines that the person may complete. The board may impose upon the registrant compliance with specific conditions as may be just in connection with his or her operations, and may further provide that, until the conditions are complied with, no application for restoration of the suspended or revoked registration shall be accepted by the board. The board shall provide public notice of the suspension or revocation pursuant to this section. The board may issue a private reprimand when a registrant commits a failure of responsibility which warrants a lesser level of discipline than suspension. The issuance of a private reprimand does not prohibit the board from using the subject of the private reprimand in an accusation, within the statute of limitations, seeking suspension or revocation resulting from a subsequent complaint, to establish a pattern of lesser failures of professional responsibility. If the evidence is insufficient to support a private reprimand or an accusation, the executive officer for registration may send a letter expressing the examining committee's concerns.

778. Causes for disciplinary action.

A registrant or certificant is subject to disciplinary action who:

(a) Has been convicted of a felony substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a registered professional forester. A conviction within the meaning of this section means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. Any action which the board is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code.

(b) Has been found guilty by the board of any deceit, misrepresentation, fraud, material misstatement of fact, incompetence, or gross negligence in his or her practice.

(c) Has been guilty of any fraud or deceit in obtaining his or her registration or certification.

(d) Aids or abets any person in the violation of any provision of this article.

(e) Fails in any material respect to comply with the provisions of this article.

778.5. Criteria development; disciplinary action.

The board shall develop criteria to determine whether a felony is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a registered professional forester in order to aid it when considering the denial, suspension, or revocation of a license.

779. Violations; misdemeanor.

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this article is guilty of a misdemeanor.

780. Deposit of fees.

The fees received pursuant to this article shall be deposited in the Professional Forester Registration Fund in the State Treasury, which fund is hereby created.

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781. Use of fees; emergency expenditure.

All fees received pursuant to the provisions of this article shall be available, when appropriated by the Legislature, for the administration of this article; provided, that in the event that moneys need to be expended from the Professional Forester Registration Fund for emergencies for which no appropriation, or an insufficient appropriation, has been made by law, and which in the judgment of the Director of Finance constitutes a case of actual necessity, but limited to purposes of administration of this article which have been specifically approved by the Legislature in budget acts or other legislation, the Director of Finance may authorize an emergency expenditure in an amount determined by him from such fund; provided, further, that the Director of Finance shall file with the Joint Legislative Budget Committee within 10 days after approval of such emergency expenditure, copies of all executive orders, expenditure authorizations, and allotments made pursuant to this section, and stating the reasons for, and the amount of, such expenditures.

782. Fee schedule.

The board shall establish by regulation the amount of fees within the following ranges, and based on a determination by the board of the amount of revenues reasonably necessary to carry out this article:

(a) The application fee for registration or for each certificate of specialization shall be not less than fifty dollars (\$50) and not more than two hundred dollars (\$200).

(b) The registration fee and certificate of specialization fees and renewal fees shall be not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25) and not more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per year. Every licensed person shall, on or before July 1 of the year of expiration, pay the renewal fee.

(c) The fee for the issuance of a duplicate display registration document or certificate of specialization shall be not less than five dollars (\$5) and not more than twenty-five dollars (\$25).

(d) The penalty fee for failure to apply for a renewal shall be not less than ten dollars (\$10) and not more than twenty-five dollars (\$25) for each month of delinquency. In return for the payment of the renewal fee and any applicable late fees, a renewal registration card shall be issued.

(e) A registrant or certificant may, upon written notice to the board, be granted a withdrawal period without penalty not to exceed five years. A reinstatement application shall be accompanied with a fee of not less than fifteen dollars (\$15) and not more than fifty dollars (\$50), for registration or each certificate of specialization.

783. Default in payment of renewal fee; effect.

In case any person defaults in payment of the renewal fee, his or her registration may be revoked by the board on 60 days' notice in writing from the board, unless within this time the fee is paid, together with penalty, not exceeding the amount fixed by this article. Upon payment of the fee and penalty within one year, the board shall reinstate the person's registration.

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Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 10. Registration of Professional Foresters.

Article 1. General Provisions

1600. Definitions.

For the purposes of the Rules and regulations contained in this chapter, the term:

“Board” means the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

“Certified Specialist” refers to a person who holds a valid certification in a specialty created by the Board.

“Code” or “PRC” refers to the Public Resources Code, unless otherwise specified.

“Committee” or “PFEC” means the Professional Foresters Examining Committee.

“Executive Officer” refers to the Executive Officer, Foresters Licensing.

“Forest Resources” means those uses and values associated with, attainable from, or closely tied to, forested landscapes, and includes but is not limited to aesthetics, fish, forage, recreation, soil, timber, water and watersheds, wilderness, and wildlife.

“Registered Professional Forester” or “RPF” refers to a person who holds a valid license as a professional forester pursuant to the provisions of the code.

1601. Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Address.

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 94244-2460.

1601.1. Determination of Deadlines.

Any due dates or time frames for submission of fees, completed forms, or correspondence is determined by date of personal delivery at Board office or date of postmark by commercial carrier.

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 described in Chapter 10, Division 1.5, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. 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.

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1602.1. Identity Required of Registered Professional Forester in Charge.

Any letter or document which offers to perform or implies the performance of any professional forestry work must identify by name and license number the forester (RPF) who will be in charge of such work when it is performed. An unregistered assistant acting in the capacity of a professional forester, as defined in 14 CCR 1602 other than on federally owned lands shall be supervised by a forester (RPF). Work plans and documents reporting work done by or under the supervision of a forester (RPF) shall bear the signature and license number of the forester (RPF) responsible for said plans, work and reports.

1603. Seal.

A seal may be used by a registrant. It shall be of the design shown here and shall not be less than one and one-half (1½) inches in diameter.



1604. Registration limited to Natural Persons.

Registration shall be determined on the basis of individual personal qualifications. No firm, company, partnership, or corporations will be issued a professional foresters license or specialty certificate.

1605. Fees.

(a) All fees required by provisions of the Code and Rules of the Board shall be transmitted by money order, bank draft, credit card, or check and shall be made payable to Professional Foresters Registration.

(b) The following schedule of fees is hereby adopted pursuant to section 782 of the Code.

- (1) Application for Registration and License as a Professional Forester \$200
- (2) Annual Rate for License as a Professional Forester 175
- (3) Application for Exam for Specialty Certificate 200
- (4) Annual rate for Specialty Certificate 65
- (5) Duplicate License or Specialty Certificate 25
- (6) Renewal of License as a Professional Forester 350
- (7) Renewal of Specialty Certificate 130
- (8) Penalty fee for failure to apply for renewal as a Licensee or for a specialty certificate is \$25 for each full month of delinquency not to exceed \$150.00 total penalty fee. 25
- (9) Reinstatement Application following Withdrawal 50
- (10) Renewal of License for Professional Foresters with 30 or more years of registration as a Professional Forester. 250

(c) The renewal fee for registration and/or certification as a forestry specialist shall be waived when a license or certificate is issued less than ninety (90) days before the date on which it will expire.

(d) Application fees for registration, certification as a forestry specialist, or reinstatement following withdrawal, shall be retained by the Board regardless of the disposition of the application.

(e) The Professional Foresters Examining Committee shall review, at least once every five years, the availability of funds necessary to administer this Chapter (Chapter 10 of Division 1.5 of Title 14

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of the California Code of Regulations) and recommend any fee changes necessary for continued administration.

1606. Address Change.

Applicants for registration or holders of a certificate of registration and license, shall notify the Board in writing at its Sacramento office within ten days of any address changes, giving both the old and new address.

1607. Issuance, Expiration and Renewal of Licenses and Certificates.

(a) Professional Foresters Licenses and Specialty Certificate shall be renewed on alternating years with odd-numbered licenses and certificates expiring on July 1 of odd-numbered years and even-numbered licenses and certificates expiring on July 1 of even-numbered years.

(b) Newly issued Professional Foresters Licenses and Specialty Certificates shall be valid, on payment of the appropriate fee, from the date of issuance to July 1 of odd-numbered years for odd-numbered licenses and certificates and July 1 of even-numbered years for even-numbered licenses and certificates. The appropriate fee for a newly issued license or certificates shall be based on proration of the annual rate for the license as provided in §1605(b)(2) or certificates as provided in §1605(b)(4) against the term of the newly issued license or certificate. Individuals reinstating their license or certificate from withdrawal shall pay the full renewal fee regardless of the actual length of time remaining in the applicable two year renewal cycle.

(c) Licenses and specialty certificates are not valid unless fees are paid prior to the expiration date. Written notification of delinquency shall be mailed no later than September 1 to those persons whose license or specialty certificate(s) expired. Individuals have sixty (60) days from the date of mailing the delinquency notice to reinstate the license or certificate by paying renewal fees and penalties, after which the Board shall revoke the license or certificate. By paying all renewal fees and penalties, within one year of the renewal date, the individual may reinstate a license or certificate(s) revoked because of delinquency.

1608. Withdrawals.

(a) The Board may, upon written request of a currently paid up licensee, grant a withdrawal of a forester's license or specialty certificate for a period not to exceed five years at any one time without penalty. The request shall state the reason for withdrawal, and the length of time for which withdrawal is requested. During withdrawal, the person shall not call him or herself a "professional forester" or provide professional forester services of any kind for pay or otherwise in California, or use their registration number anywhere.

(b) Withdrawals shall be granted only for good and sufficient reasons, including, but not limited to the following:

- (1) Active duty in the armed services of the United States.
- (2) Professional service exclusively outside of the State of California.
- (3) Ill health or disability.
- (4) Registration as a full time student in a college or university.
- (5) Retirement may be used as a reason only one time.

(c) Registrants shall be notified in writing whether the request for withdrawal is granted or denied.

(d) Prior to expiration of withdrawal status, notification of required reinstatement will be sent during the regular renewal period. If an application for reinstatement, along with the required fees prescribed, is not presented to the executive officer within the specified withdrawal period, the Board shall revoke the license or certificate.

(e) Reinstatement of a license shall be denied if:

(1) The original withdrawal occurs as part of a stipulated agreement settling a formal disciplinary case, or

(2) An RPF requested license withdrawal after being notified by the executive officer that a disciplinary investigation was being conducted concerning the RPF's license, and that the

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investigation and any disciplinary proceedings associated with it have not been concluded, including any penalties being imposed.

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 Executive Officer, or, if absent from the office of the Board, another person designated by the Executive Officer.

(b) Nothing herein prohibits the Executive Officer from re delegating duties to their subordinates as provided in Section 18572 of the Government Code.

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

1610.1. Committee Meeting and Reports.

(a) The Committee shall meet and report to the Board at least once every six months, or more frequently as necessary to fulfill its responsibilities to the Board under Section 763 of the Code, and shall refer to the Board all matters requiring Board approval.

(b) Reports and recommendations made by the Committee to the Board for approval or rejection by the Board and any action recommended or approved by the Board shall be carried out by the chairperson or a member of the Committee or by the Executive Officer in the manner approved by the Board.

1611. Reciprocity.

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.

1612. Discipline.

The Committee 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 Certified Specialist. The committee shall make recommendations to the Board for any action provided by law.

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 Certified Specialist's actions had, or will continue to have, on the protection of the public interest.

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(a) If convicted of a felony as defined in Section 778(a) and governed by Section 778.5, Public Resources Code, ranges of disciplinary action for conviction(s) are:

Maximum: Revocation of the license.

Minimum: Revocation stayed for 2 years on the following conditions:

(1) Actual suspension for 1 year.

(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 the 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 forestry.

(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:

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:

(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, 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 or specialty certificate 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, or related certified specialty, and

(3) Respondent must work, at least six months full time equivalent, under the supervision of a Registered Professional Forester or certified specialist, 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 or specialty certificate, governed by Section 778(c), Public Resources Code, the ranges of disciplinary action for violation(s) are:
Recommended Action: Revocation of license.

(f) If found guilty of aiding or abetting a violation of, or material failure to comply with the provisions of the Professional Foresters Law, governed by Section 778(d) and (e), Public Resources Code, the ranges for disciplinary action for violation(s) are:

Maximum: Revocation of the license or specialty certificate.

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Minimum: 15 days actual suspension

(g) If found guilty of failure to materially comply with any provision of the Professional Foresters Law, the Board may issue a private reprimand when the respondent commits a failure of responsibility which warrants a level of discipline lesser than suspension. If the evidence is insufficient to support a private reprimand or an accusation, the Executive Officer may send a confidential letter expressing the committee's concerns. If there are insufficient grounds for discipline, the Executive Officer shall send a letter of exoneration to the respondent.

(h) In any of the above actions, the respondent shall submit such special reports as the Board may require. Said reports shall be designed to provide information as to those facets of his/her work which resulted in the disciplinary action.

1612.2. Notification of Disciplinary Action.

(a) Conditions of staying an order which suspends or revokes a license or specialty certificate on any of the grounds for disciplinary action specified in Section 778, Public Resources Code, or specialty certificate shall require:

(1) Respondent to submit to the Board, not later than thirty (30) days after the decision becomes effective, a complete list of all business and/or client names, addresses, and phone numbers with whom a current contractual or employment relationships 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 Certified Specialist 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:

(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 Certified Specialist 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.

(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 Certified Specialist 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) Name and license number of RPF or Certified Specialist.

(C) City of business at the time of notice.

(D) Allegation: citing possible cause(s) of action under 14 CCR §1612.1.

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(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) Conviction of a felony as defined in Section 778(a) and governed by Section 778.5 of the Public Resources Code.

(ii) Fraud.

(iii) Deceit.

(iv) Gross negligence.

(v) Incompetence.

(B) The PFEC has recommended revocation or a suspension greater than 30 days for any cause under 14 CCR §1612.1.

(2) The media release shall be approved by the by the Board, and shall contain all information cited in subsection (b)(3).

(3) The media release shall be submitted to a newspaper of general circulation in the county(ies) where the infraction(s) occurred.

1613. Felony Substantial Relationship Criteria.

For the purposes of denial, suspension or revocation of a license pursuant to Division 1, Chapter 2.5, Article 3, Sections 774, 775, and 778 of the Public Resources Code (PRC), a felony shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of an RPF or Certified Specialist, if, to a substantial degree, it evidences present or potential unfitness to perform the functions authorized by Article 3 of the Public Resources Code.

Such felonies may include, but not be limited to; felony convictions which demonstrate dishonesty or breach of fiduciary responsibility or which involve any of the following:

(a) violations of PRC 778, or felony sections of the Business and Professions Code, Health and Safety Code, and Public Contracts Code;

(b) damage to natural resources including, but not limited to, arson;

(c) violations related to:

(1) Division 1, Chapter 2.5, Article 3 of the Public Resources Code or

(2) Division 4, Part 2, Public Resources Code, or

(3) Division 1.5, Title 14, California Code of Regulations.

1614. Criteria for Rehabilitation.

When considering the specified conditions of denial or reinstatement from suspension or revocation of a license or specialty certificate, the Board, in evaluating the rehabilitation of the applicant and present eligibility for a license or specialty certificate will consider the following criteria:

(a) The nature and severity of the act(s) or crime(s) under consideration as grounds for denial or reinstatement.

(b) Evidence of any act(s) committed subsequent to the act(s) or crime(s) under consideration for grounds for denial or reinstatement which also could be considered as grounds for denial or reinstatement .

(c) The time that had lapsed since the commission of the act(s) or crime(s).

(d) The extent to which the applicant, licensee, or Certified Specialist has complied with any terms of parole, probation, restitution, or any other sanctions lawfully imposed against the applicant.

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(e) Evidence, if any, of rehabilitation submitted by the applicant.

Article 2. Applications.

1620. Applications.

(a) Applications for registration as a professional forester or as a certified specialist shall be:

(1) Filed on a form prescribed by the Board

(2) Filed at the Sacramento office of the Board, and accompanied by the required application fee.

(3) Subscribed and certified to “under penalty of perjury” as provided by Section 2015.5, Code of Civil Procedure.

(4) Typewritten, except that applicants located without access to typewriters, may so state, and submit applications printed legibly by hand.

1620.1. Professional and Personal References.

An applicant shall include in the application for registration the names and addresses of two qualified foresters as references, who are familiar with the professional work and three responsible members of the community who are not foresters who can attest to the character and business integrity of the applicant. Such references may be consulted by the examining committee regarding the qualifications of the applicant.

1620.2. Application Processing.

(a) The applicant shall be informed in writing by the Executive Officer, within 90 days of receipt of the application, whether such application is complete and accepted for filing or is deficient and what specific information is required. The Examining Committee may, at a later time, request clarification of information contained in the application or supporting documents as provided in 1620.3.

(b) The applicant shall be informed, in writing, of the Board decision on registration within 360 days of filing. Postponement of the examination by the applicants shall extend this deadline in the same amount of time as the postponement.

(c) The actual minimum, median and maximum processing times for an application from the time of receipt of the application until the board makes a final decision on the application are:

(1) Minimum: 118 days

(2) Median: 152 days

(3) Maximum: 360 days

1620.3 Evidence of Qualifying Experience.

(a) The application, and any supporting documentation, shall present evidence of qualifying experience in forestry work, and any educational degree(s) substituted therefor:

(b) The qualifying experience for registration shall be computed to the final application filing date for each examination.

(c) Applicants claiming credit under educational provisions shall document such claims with an official transcript of record or comparable document or certified copy thereof, issued by the educational institution awarding the degree. Such records or transcripts shall be sent by the institution directly to the Board.

1621. Evaluation of Qualification to Take the Examination.

In complying with Sections 768 and 769(b) of the Code, the standards set forth in Sections 1621.1, 1621.2, 1621.3, 1621.4, 1622, and 1622.2 of this article are used to evaluate qualifications for authorization to take the exam.

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1621.1. Qualifying Forestry Work Experiences.

(a) “Forestry work,” within the meaning of Section 769 of the Code, includes those activities which demonstrate professional competence in the science, art, and practice of managing and using for human benefit while protecting the public interest, the natural resources that occur on and in association with, forest land.

(b) Forestry experience qualifying to take the exam shall demonstrate an increasing level of responsibility and complexity over the required time, and is more particularly classified as:

(1) Forest management, which includes that branch of forestry concerned with overall administration in forest economics, legal and social aspects; forest mensuration, forest regulation, and the development of access for protection and management of the resource.

(2) Silviculture, which includes the science and practice of controlling the composition, constitution, and growth of forests, including also stand improvement, forest nursery production, the techniques of seeding and planting, and reforestation.

(3) Forest protection, which includes the prevention and control of damage to forests, inclusive of control of forest pests; the prevention and control of wildfire; the protection of soils from erosion, and the reduction and repair of damage resulting from all of these and those related to climatic agent. Up to two years of the activities in this subsection qualify except when Section 1622(c) are met.

(4) Forest utilization which includes scaling, and logging involving felling, bucking, choker setting, and Skidding/Yarding. Up to two years of the activities in this subsection qualify except when Section 1622 of this article applies: additional time can qualify when conditions in 1622(c) are met.

(5) Forest and watershed management planning, initiated and carried out in:

(A) forest working plans,

(B) forest practice standards,

(C) management contracts,

(D) litigation reports and testimony,

(E) trespass,

(F) the development, maintenance and protection of wildlife habitat and forest range resources,

(G) forest recreation and environmental studies, and

(H) reconnaissance and mapping in conservation of forest and watershed lands and the yield thereof, including the investigation of wildlands soils.

(6) Other forest activities, including timber appraisals, forestry research, urban forestry, and teaching college or university courses in forestry.

1621.2. Non-Qualifying Forestry-Related Work Experience.

Some forestry-related activities are not considered “forestry work” experience within the meaning of Section 769 of the Code: landscape gardening; horticulture; arboriculture; tree surgery; loading and hauling of logs or other forest products, operations of wood manufacturing or remanufacturing plants; fire lookouts, dispatchers, and fire equipment operators; and agricultural pursuits not related to tree growing.

1621.3. Work Experience Obtained While In a Degree Program.

The following criteria applies to substitutions for forestry work experience toward the seven year requirement. No combination of education and work experience may be counted as more than twelve (12) months for any consecutive twelve month period. Thus, periods worked while in a substituted educational degree program do not qualify because this time is already included in the degree. Work periods that exceed the amount of degree time substituted do qualify.

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1621.4. Substitution of Education for Experience.

(a) For the purpose of this article and in accordance with Section 769(b) of the Code, a course of study shall be deemed a major in forestry only (1) if the awarding institution specifically designated the course of study as a major in forestry or a direct derivative thereof such as a major in forest management or a major in forest science, and (2) if it provides the significant concepts in a working knowledge of forest biology, forestry in the social context, forest resources inventory, forest ecosystem management, and forest resources administration. The forest courses presenting such concepts and working knowledge shall be at a level qualifying for transfer credit in a program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree with a major in forestry at either the University of California, Berkeley, California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, or at Humboldt State University.

In accordance with these standards, a “major in forestry” for the purposes of this act are majors in forestry offered in California, at the University of California, Berkeley, California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, and Humboldt State University and the programs in forestry offered in other states, which meet the above standards including such programs offered at universities accredited at the time of applicant graduation by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) as of their most current list. The list(s) may be obtained from Professional Foresters Registration, or SAF, 5400 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, Maryland, 20814-2198.

(b) The following degrees are deemed the equivalent of four years of forestry experience:

(1) A Bachelor of Science degree with a Major in Forestry, or possession of a Bachelor of Science in Forestry degree from any college or university in the United States or Canada.

(2) A degree in forestry, however designated, from a foreign college or university based on completion of a program of at least four years of university level work with a major in forestry, subject to review and favorable recommendation of the Examining Committee.

(3) A Master of Forestry degree awarded an applicant who holds either a Bachelor of Science degree or a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in a field other than forestry may submit such evidence as a comparable degree to the Bachelor of Science in Forestry degree.

(c) The Committee shall evaluate and determine, on a case-by-case basis, which other college or university degrees may be substituted as qualifying forestry work experience. In no case can any of the following be combined for more than four years substitution.

(1) A Bachelor of Science degree in a forestry-related field is not equivalent to a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in forestry. No more than two (2) years shall be substituted for such forestry-related fields including, but not limited to , wood science and technology, wildlife management, range management, soil science or conservation of natural resources.

(2) A Master of Science or Doctor of Philosophy degree in forestry or forestry-related fields can be substituted only when subsection 1621.4(b) of this article does not apply. No more than one (1) year for each of these degrees shall be substituted. A Master of Forestry degree is substituted for only one (1) year unless subsection 1621.4 (b)(3) of this article applies.

(3) An Associate of Science or Associate of Arts with a “major in forestry” from one of the two-year colleges recognized at the time of applicant graduation by the Society of American Foresters can be substituted for two (2) years’ experience. The lists(s) may be obtained from Professional Foresters Registration, or SAF, 5400 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, Maryland, 20814-2198.

1622. Three Years of “Having Charge of Forestry Work,” or “Under the Supervision of a Person Registered.”

(a) The minimum of three (3) years “having charge of forestry work,” or “forestry work under the supervision of a person registered, or qualified for, but exempt from registration” as specified in Sections 757 and 769(b) of the Code is evaluated using the criteria in subsection (b), below.

(b) “Supervision” shall be deemed adequate to meet the three year requirement if it includes the following elements:

(1) Supervisor is able to hire and fire or effectively recommend same, or is able to clearly withdraw professional responsibility for forestry related matters.

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(2) Supervisor must perform regular and timely quality control, work review and inspection, both in the office and in the field, and be able to take, or effectively recommend, corrective actions where necessary. The frequency of review, inspection and guidance shall take into consideration the experience of the non-RPF and technical complexity of the job, but shall be sufficiently frequent to ensure the accomplishment of work to professional standards.

(c) The following limitations apply to the requirement of three years “having charge of forestry work,” or “under the supervision of a person registered.”

(1) Forestry work stated in subsection 1621.1(b)(3) and 1621.1(b)(4) of this article must be performed at planning and supervision levels; scaling does not qualify unless it is part of an apprentice trainee program under the direct supervision of an RPF.

(2) Only the Master of Forestry degree, in conjunction with a qualifying Bachelor of Science degree with a major in forestry, may be substituted for one of the three years required as provided in Section 769 of the Code.

1622.2. Contracting Forestry Work Experience.

Forestry experience obtained while working as a contractor may be claimed as having charge of forestry work, or forestry work under the supervision of a person registered, or qualified but exempt from, registration provided:

(a) The applicant submits a copy of the contract and any documentation necessary to verify the appropriateness of experience.

(b) The contract required the work of the contractor to be supervised as stated in Section 1622(b) of this article.

(c) The contract or documentation specifies the various items of supervision including, but not limited to: training; frequency of contact both for professional and contract compliance purposes; office and field review; and how corrective actions can be taken.

(d) The contract or documentation has the names, current addresses, and phone numbers of each qualified forester who directly carries out this supervision. If the supervisor is Registered, the license number must be included.

1626. Denial of Application.

If, in the judgment of the committee, based upon the evidence submitted, the applicant lacks the required qualifications, the committee shall deny the application without prejudice. The applicant shall be notified in writing of the reasons for denial and of the right to appeal such denial as provided in Section 1647 of this article.

1628. Abandoned Applications.

In the absence of special circumstances, the Board shall consider an application abandoned when:

(a) The applicant fails to submit a registration fee or specialty fee within sixty (60) days of the date of the letter of acceptance for registration or certification.

(b) The applicant fails to appear for a scheduled examination at the time set without obtaining an approved postponement.

(c) The applicant, after two postponements, fails to appear for the examination at the appointed time.

Article 2.5. Applications for Registration Without Examination.

[No sections]

Article 3. Examinations

1640. Notification of Authorization to Take Examination.

Not less than thirty (30) days prior to the examination, each applicant qualified to take the exam shall be notified in writing of the date, time, and place of the examination.

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1640.1. Study Exams.

Copies of examination questions for the three (3) year period may be obtained upon payment of a fee covering direct cost of duplication as determined by the executive officer.

1640.2. Scheduling Examinations.

An application received less than sixty (60) days prior to an announced examination date may be scheduled for the next examination.

1640.3. Examinations Prescribed.

The examination shall test the applicant's understanding of the significant concept in and working knowledge of

- (1) Forest Economics,
- (2) Forest Protection,
- (3) Silviculture,
- (4) Forest Resources Management,
- (5) Forest Resources Use,
- (6) Dendrology,
- (7) Forest Ecology,
- (8) Forest Mensuration,
- (9) Forest Policy, and

(10) Forest Administration, as these apply to the management of forest lands to produce goods and services, and in terms of the environmental effects of such activities.

The committee shall prepare and administer an examination on the foregoing principles whenever the committee deems it necessary, but not less than twice per year. 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 .

1641. Examination Facilities.

The Executive Officer shall make all of the necessary arrangements to provide adequate facilities and assistants to conduct examinations in such locations as may be required to accommodate the number of applicants to be examined.

1642. Examination Irregularities.

Examinees are forbidden to receive unauthorized assistance during the examination. Communication between examinees or the use of unauthorized material or matter or devices during the examination is strictly prohibited. An applicant engaging in such conduct during the examination shall be notified that the examination shall not be graded, and shall be denied the opportunity to take the following two examinations.

1643. Successful Completion of Examination.

Following successful completion of the prescribed examination, the committee shall recommend to the Board approval for registration or certification of each qualified applicant.

1644. Denial of Application for Failure to Pass Examination.

If an applicant fails to obtain a passing grade in the prescribed examination, the committee shall deny the application without prejudice. The applicant shall be notified in writing of the right to appeal the examination following the procedures provided in Section 1647 of this article.

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1645. Inspection of Examination Papers.

An applicant who fails to receive a passing grade in the written examination may, within thirty (30) days of the examination results notice, request in writing:

- (a) A copy of the examination questions, and/or
- (b) Obtain a copy of his/her own answers which will be mailed after receipt of payment of a fee covering the direct cost of duplication as determined by the executive officer.
- (c) The applicant shall not be provided any answers of others, or the exam key. The Executive Officer shall not discuss any specific answers with the applicant because Expert Examiners mutually determine the answer scores.

1647. Appeal Procedure.

Within thirty (30) days of mailing or personal service notice, any real party of interest may appeal the actions of the Committee or Executive Officer to the Board for a review in accordance with PRC § 765 with respect to his or her qualifications in accordance with PRC § 769. The appeal for review shall be made in writing and shall include the reasons for or circumstances leading to the appeal, the items against which the appeal is made, supporting documentation, and shall be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of \$100. The Board's executive officer shall conduct a review thereon, and may, at his or her discretion, administer an oral or written examination or a re-grading of all or part of the examination as an aid in determining whether the applicant has satisfied the qualifications. Upon completion of the review, the Board's executive officer shall provide to the applicant in writing the final decision and reasons therefor. The decision of the Board's executive officer shall be final and binding.

Article 4. Miscellaneous.

1650. Specialties.

(a) As an alternative to being registered as a RPF, any person qualified pursuant to this 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 this title of that specialty.

A certificate in each specialty created will be issued by the Board pursuant to the Section 772 of the Code. Specialties will be created by regulation as the need arises.

(b) The following certified specialties shall be implemented and overseen by the Executive Officer, with the assistance of the PFEC:

(1) Certified Rangeland Management Specialty

(c) To obtain Board recognition of its independent certification program, the professional society or public agency shall submit to the Board its program, including but not limited to any requirements for experience, education, disciplinary proceedings, and applicable testing. Upon a determination by the Board that the program fully protects the public interest by ensuring that individuals satisfying the requirements of the program possess the requisite experience and general knowledge in the area of practice encompassed by the program, the Board shall recognize the certification program as full qualification without examination for the Board's certificate of specialization, and the Board shall register as certified specialists those individuals who have met the requirements under the recognized program upon submission of such evidence to the Board.

(d) For independent certification programs submitted to the Board by a professional society or public agency pursuant to Section 772 of the Code, 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; reviewing allegations of misconduct; and administering discipline pursuant to the respective certification program; the panel members shall have first been certified by the Board as meeting the professional qualifications and standards for that certified specialty 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

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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 professional society or public agency of any Certified Specialist who is guilty of violations of professional standards and issued discipline pursuant to the respective certification program. Subsequent to being granted the specialty certificate by the Board, the Certified Specialist shall be subject to disciplinary actions 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 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 PFEC. 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 modification to a specialty certification program must be approved by the PFEC prior to implementation. Modifications that significantly alter the qualifications and accountability within the recognized certification program must be approved by the Board.

(4) Prior to March 1 of each calendar year, those professional societies and public agencies with recognized independent certification programs shall submit to the Executive Officer 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 the rescission of recognition of the certification program by the Board.

(e) 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) All Certified Specialists are subject to annual registration and fees for renewal of specialty certificates 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.

(g) 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 through ensuring that individuals satisfying the requirements of the program possess the requisite experience and general knowledge in the area of practice encompassed by the program, and shall rescind its recognition of the independent certification program if it determines that the program does not fully protect such interest.

(h) In addition to rescission pursuant to subsection (g) of this Section, the Board may rescind its recognition of the independent certification program if it determines that the professional society or public agency fails to comply with any other requirements of this Section.

1651. Certified Rangeland Management Specialty.

(a) A "Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM)" is a person who provides services pursuant to Title 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 on forested landscapes, as defined in California Public Resources Code § 754. A CRM shall perform professional services only in those subjects in which he or she is competent by training and experience.

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(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 CRM may be achieved by submitting to the Board evidence of certification by the professional society or public agency recognized under Public Resources Code § 772 as a Certified Rangeland Manager, subject to 14 CCR § 1650. The Board shall grant a specialty certificate upon (i) receiving evidence that the applicant has met the CRM qualifications under the terms of the program, has successfully completed any applicable written examination, has paid all fees due to the professional society or public agency, if any, and upon (ii) payment of all applicable fees to the Board pursuant to 14 CCR §§ 1605 and 1607.

(d) The independent certification program submitted by CalPac-SRM pursuant to its “Program for Certification of Professional Rangeland Managers” (PCPRM) dated June 5, 1992, and amended and recognized by the Board on November 4, 1993 shall remain in effect until recognition is otherwise rescinded by the Board pursuant to 14 CCR §§ 1650(g).