# Licensing News Office of Professional Foresters Registration



**WINTER 2020** VOLUME 32 - ISSUE 2

## CURRENT PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS EXAMINING COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

Professional Foresters Registration shall protect the public interest through the regulation of those individuals who are licensed to practice the profession of forestry, and whose activities have an impact upon the ecology of forested landscapes and the quality of the forest environment, within the State of California.

Mr. Frank Mulhair, Vice Chair – RPF (Industry) Mr. Dan Sendek – RPF (Public, Retired) Mr. William Snyder – RPF (Cal Fire, Retired) Mr. Jason Poburko – RPF (Cal Fire) Mr. Larry Forero – CRM (Certified Specialty) Mr. James Hawkins - RPF (Industry) Mr. Christian Eggleton – RPF (Consultant) VACANT – (Board Member, Public) VACANT – (Industry Member, RPF) VACANT – (Government Member, RPF)

#### PROGRAM STAFF

Dan Stapleton, RPF No. 2707 Asst. Executive Officer, Foresters Licensing <u>dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov</u> 916.653.6634 Deniele Cade Staff Services Analyst <u>deniele.cade@bof.ca.gov</u> 916.653.8007

#### **CURRENT BOARD OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION COMPOSITION**

The Board's mission is to lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of forest and rangelands, and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state.

Dr. J. Keith Gilless, Chair (Public Representative)
Ms. Darcy Wheeles (Public Representative)
Mr. Richard Wade (Timber Industry Representative)
Ms. Susan Husari (Public Representative)
Mr. Marc Los Huertos (Public Representative)
Mr. Mike Jani (Timber Industry Representative)
Ms. Katie Delbar (Range/Livestock Representative)
Mr. Christopher Chase (Timber Industry Representative)

#### **BOARD STAFF**

Matthew Dias, RPF No. 2773 Executive Officer 916.653.8007 matt.dias@bof.ca.gov

Edith Hannigan Associate Government Program Analyst 916.653.2928 edith.hannigan@bof.ca.gov

Laura Alarcon-Stalians Administrative Manager 916.653.7102 <u>laura.alarcon-stalians@bof.ca.gov</u>

> Claire McCoy Environmental Planner 916.653.8007 claire.mccoy@bof.ca.gov

Jeff Slaton Senior Board Counsel jeffrey.slaton@bof.ca.gov 916.651.2940

Andrew Lawhorn Forestry Assistant II 916.653.8007 <u>andrew.lawhorn@bof.ca.gov</u>

Sara Walter Associate Governmental Program Analyst 916.653.8007 Sara.walter@bof.ca.gov Linda Cano Executive Assistant 916.653.8007 linda.cano@bof.ca.gov

Mazonika Kemp Records Administrator 916.653.5060 mazonika.kemp@bof.ca.gov

Eric Hedge, RPF No. 3010 Forester III 916.653.9633 eric.hedge@bof.ca.gov

Katie Harrell Associate Government Program Analyst 916.653.0510 <u>Katie.harrell@bof.ca.gov</u>

> Robert Roth Attorney III <u>robert.roth@bof.ca.gov</u> 916.653.9066

Mazonika Kemp Records Administrator 916.653.5060 <u>mazonika.kemp@bof.ca.gov</u>

## The View from the <del>15<sup>th</sup> Floor</del> Living Room by Dan Stapleton, Asst. Executive Officer

What a year 2020 has been. It seems that any and everything negative that could possibly be placed upon the human existence has been brought to bear. From sweeping COVID restrictions driving economic paralysis to a devastating wildfire year, California and much of the world remain muddled in a trajectory that will likely not change for another six months. Thank goodness for the support of friends and family during this holiday season, the first in my 57 years that does not include the rest of my family members sitting down for a Thanksgiving feast. I remain hopeful that the near-term distribution of vaccines will help to protect the vulnerable, our first responders and

health care professionals so we can begin to turn the corner and make 2020 a distant reflection in our collective rearview mirror.

In the six months since the last edition of Licensing News, California has set records for the most acres burned in single year since the establishment of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, recording over four million acres of wildfire in the State. Statistics for this fire season as of December 9, 2020:

<u>4,359,517 acres burned</u> <u>9,279 incidents</u> <u>10,488 structures destroyed</u> <u>33 fatalities</u>

CAL FIRE has an excellent webpage tabulating the statistics including specific incident information <u>HERE</u>.

This fire season took off with a series of lightning strike complex fires that threatened much of Santa Cruz and other areas of the State and filled the skies over San Francisco for an entire month. The CAL FIRE response was enormous and challenging with heavy fuel loads and dense forests interspersed with homes. A month or so later, these natural fire events were seemingly under control when red flag wind conditions erupted, and a host of human caused fires flared up. My compliments and thanks to those who responded to the worst fire year in history and much respect to Director Porter who had the difficult job of allocating finite resources while encouraging exhausted first responders to carry on, most who spent months away from home this summer.

The Board continues to work on various fire and forestry related items including the development of a research plan for CAL FIRE's State Demonstration Forests, Draft amendments to SRA Fire Safe regulations, potential amendments to Conversion Exemptions and consideration of a Draft Fire Risk Reduction Communities rule plead. Also, under development are the 2020 draft Annual Report. The Annual Report, which is pending approval, will have information on 2021 priorities. Stay safe and happy holidays!

## **STAFF ADDITIONS**

**Claire McCoy, Environmental Planner** - Claire McCoy joined the Board staff in August 2020 in the role of Wildfire Planning Specialist, working under the supervision of



Land Use Planning Program manager Edith Hannigan. Claire grew up in the coastal Redwoods of Northern California before moving to Massachusetts to earn her bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Smith College. Her academic and professional focus has been on land use planning for environmental justice and climate resilience. Claire is grateful for the opportunity to work on developing regulations and implementing programs to mitigate wildfire hazard across the state. **Andrew Lawhorn - Forestry Assistant II** - Andrew Lawhorn joined the Board staff, September 2020 in the role of Regulations Forestry Assistant II working under the supervision of Regulations Program Manager Eric Hedge. Andrew is from Alabama and spent his upbringing in one of the richest agricultural regions of the State. He later moved to north Alabama to pursue his education, earning his Bachelors degree from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University in Forestry with a minor in Forest Business. As a student, he was President of the Forestry Club, Diversity Ambassador for the Society of American Foresters and completed an internship in China, studying growth and economic patterns of Bamboo Rhizome systems. Andrew is honored for an opportunity to support the Board staff with technical assistance, researching and summarizing ecological concerns.



**Sara Walter** – Sara joined the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in September of 2020 after working as a Contract Analyst with The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Sara is a Northern California Native who grew up in South San Francisco and later moved to the Sacramento area and is passionate about animals and photography. "I am very excited to be part of the Board and look forward to many years ahead of learning and growing with such a great agency".

**Departures** - **Brandi Goss** joined the Board Staff late in 2018 but left in mid-2020 to continue on with her education after being accepted into a Masters program at UC Davis. Brandi was essential in organizing the agenda and materials under consideration for the Rangeland Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) and Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC). Thank you and Good luck Brandi!

## **Meetings of Interest and Special Announcements**

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

The Board's next meeting is scheduled for January 19th and 20th, 2021 and will be a webinar based online meeting. The entire 2021 Board meeting schedule has been set and can be viewed online at the following web link:

https://bof.fire.ca.gov/business/meeting-agendas-and-annual-schedules/

The public may sign up for webinars at the Board of Forestry website <u>homepage</u> at <u>https://bof.fire.ca.gov</u>. You can use this link to also view agendas and other information for the Board and for the advisory committees listed below. Agendas can be found 10 days prior to the meeting date at the homepage link under <u>Business</u>.

#### Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC)

The next PFEC meeting is tentatively scheduled for the last half of February 2021. It will likely be a webinar-based meeting due to COVID 19 mitigations. Information

about this advisory committee to the Board can be found HERE.

#### Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC)

The next EMC meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2021 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Information about this advisory committee to the Board can be found <u>HERE</u>.

#### Joint Institute of Wood Products Innovation

The next Joint Institute meeting is not yet scheduled for 2021. Information about this advisory committee to the Board can be found <u>HERE</u>.

#### Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC)

The next RMAC meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2021. Information about this advisory committee to the Board can be found <u>HERE</u>.





*RPF #1, Francis H. Raymond, presents the Golden Smokey award to the US Weather Bureau, Fire Weather Service in October 1968.* 

### **REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS & CERTIFIED RANGELAND MANAGERS** The table below indicates the known status of all

current and former registrants by license type as of December 10, 2020.

STATUS	RPF's	CRM's	
Valid	1,103	84	
Withdrawn	132	4	
Revoked (non-payment or disciplinary action)	805	17	
Voluntarily Relinquished	727	13	
Suspended	0	0	
Deceased	339	6	
TOTAL	3,106	124	

## **RECENTLY APPROVED REGULATIONS**

In 2020, the Board approved the following:

- Emergency Fire Safe Regulations Applicability, 2020 This emergency action by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection amends the applicability of its State Responsibility Area Fire Safe regulations to exempt the reconstruction or repair of legally constructed homes damaged by wildfire under certain conditions and the creation of accessory or junior accessory dwelling units, as specified.
- LTO Education and Limited LTO Amendments, 2020 In this regulatory action, the Board amends its regulations to add a new type of timber operation license to two existing timber operation licenses. The three types of licenses are Timber Operator License (A), Limited Timber Operator License (B), and Restricted Timber Operator License (C). The regulatory amendments identify prohibited activities under a Limited Timber Operator License. Further, the amendments establish a new license fee of \$75 and a renewal license fee \$50 for the Restricted Timber Operator License.
- **Appeal Amendments**, **2020** Public Resources Code section 765 permits an applicant for a license to become a registered professional forester who contends that they have "been aggrieved by any action taken by the examining committee with respect to their qualifications to appeal to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (the "Board") in accordance with rules or regulations prescribed by the Board. In this regular rulemaking, the Board is amending regulations pertaining to the Board's review of an appeal made pursuant to Public Resources Code section 765, including adopting a non-refundable \$100 fee that must be paid by an applicant submitting an appeal.
- **Minimum Stocking Standards, Section 100, 2020** These changes without regulatory effect update Title 14 California Code of Regulations section 1071 to conform to changes made by a regulatory action that inadvertently neglected to include section 1071 in its text of amended sections.

• **Tethered Operation Amendments**, **2020** - This action adopts a regulatory framework for tethered logging operations.

Most current and approved regulation files are now available at the Board website <u>HERE</u>. If you require archived material, please email <u>Eric Hedge</u>, Regulations Program Manager.

## **Disciplinary Actions Report**

Since the last issue of the Licensing News, no new complaints are being investigated by the EO.

## **RPF and CRM Examination Announcements**

The April 2021 and October 2021 Exam Notices have been posted. The April Exam has been scheduled for April 9, 2021 and the deadline for NEW applications for that exam is February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The October 2021 Exam has been scheduled for October 8, 2021 and the deadline for NEW applications for that exam is August 6, 2021. The Exam Notices and information on RPF and CRM exams can be found <u>HERE</u>. Please notice on the exam notices, the Professional Foresters Examining Committee has determined that applicant review must follow regulations. All new applicants must qualify by the exam application deadline to be considered eligible to sit for the exam. No exceptions will be allowed for those who do not qualify by the application deadline even if they qualify by the examination date.

Those interested in taking the RPF or CRM examinations are encouraged to contact Dan Stapleton with any questions about qualifications prior to applying and exam fee. Dan may be reached at 916-653-6634 or by email at <u>dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov</u>.

## IN MEMORIUM

This section is devoted to the memory of those fine foresters who have passed from our ranks. Regrettably, I am sometimes late in getting this information posted. So that I may provide timely remembrances, if you have knowledge of an RPF or CRM passing, please forward this information to my Board email address at <u>dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov</u> so that I can pay tribute to these individuals.

#### Dwight "Keith" Crummer, RPF #310



Dwight Keith Crummer, was born in Dayton, Ohio, February 7, 1941. Keith spent his formative years with family in Southern Ca. around Lake Arrowhead and Covina. He had an "itch" to become an airplane pilot but when he saw the realities of the pilot's life, he turned toward Forestry as he loved the lifestyle of living in the mountains. Keith first attended Mt. Sacramento Jr. College, moved on to Oregon State, then Northern Arizona University and finally Cal. Berkeley where he graduated from the School of Forestry with high honors. Keith moved

to Seiad Valley, on the Klamath River where he honed his skills in the Forestry Dept. and was promoted to the Weaverville district, loving his growing commitment to a healthy and sustainable forest. Later he was promoted to District Ranger for the Mendocino National Forest then moved on to District Ranger for the Lassen National Forest in Chester, CA in 1986. Eventually Keith became the Assistant District Supervisor where he finished his last couple of years with the Forest Service at the Supervisors office in Susanville. He retired from the Forest Service with over 30 years and used his immense skills and knowledge to continue working as a Registered Professional Forester. The vast knowledge of the complexity of the forestry science, which he loved, made him a valuable part of Chester and the surrounding communities. Keith wrote many papers and articles espousing the proper care and management of the forests and was sought after as an authority. His expertise in Forestry was respected and his integrity was admired.

#### William L. Jones, RPF #794



William L. Jones of Redding, California was born June 30, 1926 in Clarkesville, Arkansas. Known to his family as "Dub", he was the 10th of 12 kids. His family moved to Sikeston, Missouri to farm cotton when he was young. He left the farm when he was 14 and eventually moved to Los Angeles area when he was 17. Shortly thereafter he joined the US Army and was sent to Japan as part of the occupation forces. He returned to California after the military where he met his wife to be, Dolores Gonzales, in Lemoore, CA. They were

married on December 26, 1947, and moved to Arcata, California where they lived for 31 years. He went to work for Humboldt Plywood in 1947 and learned all aspects of sawmill, timber and logging operations. In 1967 Brite-wood Lumber Company hired him as their timber manager and he was eventually grand- fathered in as a Registered Professional Forester. He had an entrepreneurial spirit and was involved in the startup of three corporations involving Hydroelectric power, Quick lube oil business, and timberland and logging. In 1978 his family moved to Redding where he worked and resided for 41 years.

#### Raymond "Larry" Hyder, RPF #1454



Raymond "Larry" Hyder passed away on Friday, July 3, just shy of his 91st birthday. Larry was born in Buhl, Idaho on July 29, 1929, where he grew up fishing the Snake River. Born to potato farmers, he was the youngest of eight children. Larry eventually made his way to Logan Utah where he attended Utah State. In the summer of 48 he bought a bus ticket with a friend and they began a tour of the United States. In 1950, Larry enlisted in the Army where he attended Medical Field Service School, then on to Fort Ord in Monterey for leadership training, and finally on to Fort Riley, Kan., for Officers Candidate School. Larry wasn't at his first duty station for long before he volunteered for Korea. Lt. Hyder was in several battles, was promoted to 1st Lt., and in June of 1953 was awarded two Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart. After completion of his military service Larry moved to California where he found great success with Simplot, traveling to the surrounding states and selling fertilizer. Larry eventually left Simplot and he took up work as a survey technician, becoming a national expert in survey research using skills he picked up in the military. Later, Larry started a highly successful Christmas Tree Farm which ultimately became his legacy. Not long after leaving his job selling fertilizer, the Indian Rock Christmas Tree Farm opened in Camino, Calif. They put in a gift shop, which they named Pete and Sam's Pretties, and every Christmas season the family would gather to help out on the farm.

#### John Carter, RPF #1892



John Griffin Carter was born June 3, 1950 in San Francisco and grew up there. John graduated from Washington High School in 1968. He took that summer off for a surfing holiday and joined the U.S. Marine Corps in September 1968. Upon leaving the military, he went to college at the College of the Redwoods then finished up at UC Berkeley. He started his firefighting at the College of the Redwoods where he worked as a firefighter. He graduated Cal with a BS in Forestry in

1976. He entered the ranks of CDF (Cal Fire) in 1972, as a seasonal forest firefighter. Upon graduation he switched from firefighter to Forester 1 where he rose to the rank of Deputy Chief. In 1984 he was awarded the CSFA Award of Valor for risking his life while off duty by pulling a man from a burning truck before the gas tank exploded, completely engulfing the area in flames. This and other heroic deeds were an everyday part of his life on and off the job.

#### Aileen Palmer, RPF #2012



Aileen became a resident of Yoncalla, Oregon after retiring from a 32-year career as a forester and wildlife biologist with the U.S. Forest Service near Yosemite Park in California. Aileen was president of the Yoncalla Historical Society and lead the town's efforts to transform an abandoned Mill Pond into a park and wildlife viewing area. Aileen also advocated

in support of the local library.

#### Carl Hayward, RPF #2488



Carl was born June 6, 1946 in Daggett, Michigan to the late Edgar and Thelma (Ailport) Hayward. He graduated from Handy High School in 1964. Carl obtained a Masters degree in Natural Resource Management from the University of Michigan in 1976. He proudly served in the United States Army. Carl worked for Tri-County Logging as a Procurement Manager, retiring in 2014. He was an avid racquetball player and loved playing softball. Carl also enjoyed singing, playing pool, and

horse riding.

#### Bob MacMullin, RPF #2072



Robert Smith MacMullin passed away October 27, 2020 in McKinleyville. Bob was born December 16, 1952 in Hollywood to Richard and Barbara MacMullin. He moved to Ohio when he was in high school and graduated from Ottawa Hills High School with a football scholarship to Kalamazoo University in Michigan. However, his dream was to work in the woods, so he chose to attend Colorado State University - School of Forestry. He played football for Colorado State only to be "beaten to a pulp by those

big farm boys." He was the second smallest player on the team. After earning a degree in Forest Management in 1976 he worked for the US Forest Service as a fire crew foreman in Safford, Arizona and a professional timber faller. He made his way to the northwest typing resumes in his VW van, which he also lived in. He was hired by Arcata Redwood in 1977. In 1981 he went to work for Simpson Timber. He established MacMullin Forestry & Logging in 1982. He provided services on both public and private timber lands for 38 years as a California Registered Professional Forester and a California Licensed Timber Operator. Bob was a member and served on various boards of directors. In 1991 he served as the president of the Redwood Region Logging Conference, president of Concerned Citizens of Arcata in 1993, vice president of Adoption Horizons 1992-2003, Pacific Logging Congress member and board director 1992-1999, Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Council 2001-2004, President of the Associated California Loggers 2015-2017.

Mervin James (Jim) Gamble RPF #2115 - Jim was born April 2, 1942 in Fort



Bragg, California into a logging family descended from the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians. He started life in logging at Camp 20 on what is the Fort Bragg to Willits Road (Hwy 20). His Dad, Uncle and Grandfather were working in the woods and his mother worked in the cook house. He was told from his earliest memories that he would work in the woods as soon as he was old enough. He began working in the woods summers as a choker setter while attending first Santa Rosa Junior

College and then Humboldt State College, with time taken out to serve 2 years in the Army during the Vietnam war. He then graduated from Humboldt State in 1970 with a degree in microbiology and put to work with Forester Raymond Spencer in the Forestry Department of Willits Redwood and never left. In 1980 Mervin married Ruby and began studying with Oregon State College and passed the test for his RPF license #2115. Willits Redwood sold to Harwood Products in 1973 and Jim continued working for them until 2004 when he was forced into semi-retirement and became a consulting forester until 2019 when he fully retired the last of his owl calling jobs at age 77. He volunteered with the American Tree Farm program his whole career and beyond serving as an area director for several years. One of his Landowners won Tree Farm of the Year award. He served four-years on the Board of Directors of the Redwood Region Logging Conference helping plan and organize their annual Logging Conferences. In 1996-1997 he won California Department of Forestry and Fire Protections Golden Trowel Award for Excellence in Archaeology. Jim was a dedicated forester and a good cruiser mentoring young forestry technicians to master the field. He spent countless hours calculating cruise information from field work on various private properties as well as Jackson Demonstration State Forest and US Forester Service timber sales to ensure they had the volume as advertised. The above drawing of Jim from one of his clients was done because he was so curious of all the tools needed to do his job each day in the woods. He was fascinated with his vest and all the pockets and asked about each tool and how it was used to do his job. And what a job. Surveyor, archaeologist, water and soil specialist, endangered species protector, road engineer, map maker, timber cruiser, mathematician, logging supervisor, biologist, the list goes on and on. And all this was before computers helped with any of the work. One smart and friendly man! We will surely miss him.

## Powerline Right of Way Maintenance – Arboriculture or Timber Operation and Forestry?

In my position as Executive Officer for the Office of Professional Foresters Registration, I am often faced with questions by exam applicants, RPFs, and local land use managers about what qualifies as forestry work and when is an RPF required for a project. I attempt to answer these questions by citing the Professional Foresters Law (PFL) and the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act (FPA) (Statutes) and the regulations informed by these laws.

**PRC 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.

PRC 753 concludes stating "...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."

The last sentence of PRC 753 makes clear if there is an environmental impact by a forestry activity on a forested landscape, you must be licensed to make recommendations to protect all forest resources.

A key word in this section of law is Forested Landscape.

As defined in **PRC 754** "Forested Landscape" 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 nonforestry commercial, urban, or farming uses.

For further clarification you can research the regulatory development for the use of the term forested landscapes in the PFL. The presumption in the statutes are that a forested landscape could occupy as little as 10% canopy closure at maturity and include lands that are "capable of growing a significant stand of native trees" that may have otherwise been converted to other uses.

In addition to the PFL, the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act's PRC 4527 is informative in the requirements of timber operations. A timber operation is regulated by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

*Timber operations; commercial purposes; criteria. (a) (1)* "Timber operations" means the cutting or removal, or both, of timber or other solid wood forest products, including Christmas trees, from timberlands for commercial purposes, together with all the incidental work, including, but not limited to, construction and maintenance of roads, fuel breaks, firebreaks, stream crossings, landings, skid trails, and beds for the falling of trees, fire hazard abatement, and site preparation that involves disturbance of soil or burning of vegetation following timber harvesting activities, but excluding preparatory work such as treemarking, surveying, or road flagging.

(a) (2) "Commercial purposes" includes (A) the cutting or removal of trees that are processed into logs, lumber, or other wood products and offered for sale, barter, exchange, or trade, or (B) the cutting or removal of trees or other forest products during the conversion of Timberlands to land uses other than the growing of timber that are subject to the provisions of Section 4621, <u>including, but not limited to</u>, residential or commercial developments, production of other agricultural crops, recreational developments, ski developments, water development Projects, and transportation Projects. It is clear that timber operations can be the cutting <u>alone</u> as well as the removal of solid wood and trees and includes incidental work for fire hazard abatement and the conversion of Timberlands to land uses other than the growing of timber. The latter includes <u>but is not limited to</u> developments such as ski areas, road systems. It seems logical that powerline right of way maintenance and right of way conversions would be included as both a timber operation for fire hazard abatement and conversion to a non-timberland use on a forested landscape. Both are a timber operation and requires a permit or an approved exemption from the lead agency, which brings us to the following regulation:

14 CCR §15149. USE OF REGISTERED PROFESSIONALS IN PREPARING EIRS (a) <u>A number of statutes provide that certain professional services can be</u> provided to the public only by individuals who have been registered by a registration board established under California law. Such statutory restrictions apply to a number of professions including but not limited to engineering, land surveying, forestry, geology, and geophysics. (b) In its intended usage, an EIR is not a technical document that can be prepared only by a registered professional. The EIR serves as a public disclosure document explaining the effects of the proposed project on the environment, alternatives to the project, and ways to minimize adverse effects and to increase beneficial effects. As a result of information in the EIR, the Lead Agency should establish requirements or conditions on project design, construction, or operation in order to protect or enhance the environment. State statutes may provide that only registered professionals can prepare technical studies which will be used in or which will control the detailed design, construction, or operation of the proposed project and which will be prepared in support of an EIR.

Since the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is the lead agency, the agency sets the rules for RPF involvement on timber operations and timberland conversions.

Recent events make this information timely for the RPF community. Utility infrastructure has been responsible for several wildfires in recent years. Utilities have responded with vigorous preventive management programs along powerline right of ways. Extensive post-wildfire utility right of way repair and maintenance is also ongoing during this unprecedented fire season.

Not surprisingly, utilities are facing heightened scrutiny when it comes to powerline right of way maintenance, not only from the Legislature and state regulatory agencies but also the public. In fact, the Board is in the preliminary stages of considering regulatory changes to require increased use of RPFs for powerline right of way maintenance to ensure that this work is performed responsibly and in compliance with the law. News reports, anecdotal reports from licensees in the field, and public comments at recent Board meetings and workshops reflect increased concern about whether utility powerline right of way maintenance is being conducted

in compliance with the FPA and other laws. As such, we encourage all RPFs to remain mindful during your professional interactions of the current circumstances surrounding utility powerline right of way maintenance activities by doing each of the following:

- Consistently approach your professional obligations with appropriate care.
- Remain vigilant about compliance with laws that govern the practice of forestry.
- Stay informed about regulatory changes being considered by the Board.

## Francis H. Raymond Award for Excellence in Forestry Awarded to Thomas Jopson



Bob Rynearson presents the FHR Award to Tom Jopson

Tom Jopson was presented the Francis H. Raymond award at the November Board of Forestry meeting online, using the GoToWebinar platform. Tom is a familiar name in California Forestry since his company, Cal Forest Nursery (Growpro, Inc.) and Siskiyou Seed Company, supply many of the seed and trees used for reforestation in Oregon and California. Tom, who has a B.S. Agricultural Economics and a M.S. in Environmental Horticulture, has developed Cal Forest Nursery as the premier and most productive commercial conifer seedling nursery in California. Bob Rynearson (pictured with Tom above), Lands Manager for W.M. Beaty and Associates, nominated Tom for his "customer first" attitude and passion for our reforestation success. "Tom goes well beyond business as usual to cost effectively grow a few hundred million healthy, vigorous native tree seedlings that California forestland owners and managers have planted to successfully reforest hundreds of thousands of acres." Aside from Tom's accomplishments as Owner and President of Cal Forest Nursery, Tom has also been instrumental as the Chair of the California Reforestation Legacy Committee, Forest Vegetation Management Conference. Under his encouragement, the <u>California Reforestation Manual. 2014 to present:</u> was created which contributed to the publishing of a new book "<u>Reforestation Practices for Conifers in California</u>" (See the UC Berkeley Press Release below). Tom initiated this effort, volunteering much time and money, while encouraging other reforestation experts to participate.

Tom's contributions to forestry do not stop at our state line. Tom has donated



thousands of dollars and weeks of his time every year helping in reforestation abroad with the startup of many small nurseries in villages and towns throughout the country of Lebanon. Tom has also voluntarily shared California's successful nursery and reforestation practices with nursery managers and reforestation project managers in Turkey. He generously shares with nursery and reforestation managers his expertise developed over the past 40

years in California's similar Mediterranean climate. In California, Tom volunteers his time and donates his resources for trials and applied research that has benefited many forest landowners in California. He has also been active in the community, serving as a Board member for the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District since 2016 and the as a member of the Scott Valley Groundwater Advisory Committee to Siskiyou County since 2011.

Tom's nomination received 26 letters of support from industry, landowners, academia, government, non-profits, Lebanese conservationists, and the Turkish government. Presenting via webinar for Tom's forestry efforts were:

- Mark Gray, Coast-Cascade Reforestation Manager, Sierra Pacific Industries
- Hisham Salman, AFDC, Lebanon Nature & Conservation Program Director
- **Şafak** Kemaloglu, Division Director, General Directorate of Forestry Afforestation Department, Division Directorate of Featured Area Afforestation, Ankara, Turkey
- Charlie Brown, retired Vice President Northern Operations, Fruit Growers Supply Co.

Tom's accomplishments are presented in greater detail <u>HERE</u> in the nomination packet submitted to the Board. Congratulations Tom on the presentation of this prestigious award.

## NEW UC BOOK OFFERS INSIGHT INTO HOW LANDOWNERS CAN REFOREST LANDS RAVAGED BY

WILDFIRES - Press Release UC Berkeley, October 2020

BERKELEY – The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) publications office today announced the release of a new book, "Reforestation Practices for Conifers in California", a practical manual for landowners and managers that explains the why, where, who, when, what, and how of getting sustainable forests back into California's diverse landscape. It is available now for immediate viewing and downloading for free on the Forest Vegetation Management Conference's website: www.fvmc.org. Next year the book will be published in full color print and web format by UCANR.

"The primary takeaway from this book is that the most successful reforestation happens if planning begins as soon as the flames die down," said Dr. Bill Stewart, Co-Director, Berkeley Forests. "The manual presents a planning process, with a detailed explanation of the options at each step. These basic steps are the same for a small landowner, large landowner, or an agency."

The recommended practices are the result of 50 years of concentrated effort to improve reforestation success and reduce costs under the difficult conditions present in most of California. Significant lessons have been learned since the last reforestation manual for California was published in 1971. The 16 co-authors of the new book present the best practices gleaned from their combined experience of planting over 100 million conifer seedlings on hundreds of thousands of acres of public and private land in the state. Funding for the preparation of this book was provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the U.S. Forest Service, and private donors. Successful reforestation is nothing like landscaping a yard and going down to the nursery to buy a few fruit trees to plant and water in your backyard. Because reforesting burned forestland depends on natural precipitation and not costly irrigation systems, reforestation requires careful evaluation of the site and the availability of locally adapted native seeds. If seeds are available, then foresters prescribe treatments for the site and the quantity of seedlings of each species needed. Over the next two years, the forester will plan and implement site preparation, plant nursery grown seedlings, and arrange follow-up treatments as needed.

Bob Rynearson of W. M. Beaty & Associates, Inc, a forestland consulting firm in Redding, California and one of the book's authors explains, "Experience has shown controlling competing vegetation results in the retention of sufficient soil moisture for excellent seedling survival rates, even on very dry sites during prolonged droughts, when high quality, locally adapted native seedlings are planted properly. If you don't properly plan and implement the sequence of each time-critical reforestation step, then you're probably wasting your money, time, and valuable conifer seed." "To maintain the carbon capturing potential of our forests, significant investments in effective reforestation on private and public forest lands will be necessary," said Dr. Stewart. "The bottom line is that achieving success is critical if the growing backlog of California's fire damaged forests are to once again be filled with healthy trees."

The president of the non-profit organization Forest Landowners of California, Claire McAdams, is enthusiastic in support of the book: "The loss of family forests due to wildfires, often after one or more decades of ownership and careful husbandry, is emotionally gut wrenching. The new Reforestation Practices for Conifers in California publication by UCANR is an excellent guide to both the process and issues facing non-industrial forestland owners seeking to reforest their land. This publication belongs on everyone's reference shelf."

Contact: Bill Stewart, UC Berkeley, billstewart@berkeley.edu (510) 318-0377 About Dr. Bill Stewart and Berkeley Forests - Bill Stewart of the University of California' Berkeley Forests and Agricultural and Natural Resources is the technical editor for the project. "The final book includes more than 500 pages, 200 figures, and 800 scientific references. It will be a valuable resource for landowners, practitioners, and policy makers" he said. The process involved 16 co-authors and more than 25 peer reviewers. Given the time sensitive need to get this information out in the public arena while UCANR is completing the copy editing, final high-quality illustrations, and hard copy publication, we agreed to post all of the peer reviewed chapters for easy download on the <u>Forest Vegetation Management Conference website</u>, noted Stewart.

The <u>Forest Vegetation Management Conference</u> made major contributions to both the accumulation of the new knowledge that led to this book's creation and to the process that led to this book becoming a reality rather than just an idea.

## CalVTP Update

The Board approved the CalVTP and certified the Program EIR on December 30, 2019. CAL FIRE and other state and local agencies are now working on VTP implementation. Statewide training is currently in development and will be made available via an online platform in early 2021. RPFs are highly encouraged to participate given that the RPF license is recognized through the supporting PEIR.

You can find the most current version of the Final Draft CalVTP and a complete list of RPF Roles under <u>Appendix PD-3 - Project Specific Analysis</u> at the Board website located at this link: <u>https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/calvtp/</u>

Distinguished Service Awards Presented to Otto van Emmerik and Gerald Jensen for their work on the PFEC.



Otto van Emmerik

Gerald Jensen

In December, Distinguished Service Awards were delivered to two of the most longstanding members of the Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC). Chair Otto van Emmerik and member Gerald Jensen. Chair van Emmerik has been on the PFEC for over 22 years and member Jensen for over 19 years. It will be hard to replicate the experience and professionalism these two have provided to the committee. Both men in their normal jobs were in leadership positions, one in industry and the other with the USFS. Both brought a quiet confidence and decades of experience to help guide the committee on issues of importance to RPFs and CRM. The Board and Board Staff salute them for their service and wish them well in the future.

## Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Seeks Nominations for Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC)

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) is requesting nominations for two (2) seats on the Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC). PRC §763 establishes the PFEC as a committee of the Board consisting of at least seven or more members, and distributed as follows:

- 1. Two public members with one selected from the membership of the Board.
- 2. At least four Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) representing a broad cross section of employment and expertise, and...
- 3. At least one certified specialist pursuant to PRC §772.

As of January 15, 2021, there will be six (6) RPFs and one (1) certified specialist (CRM) member. There is one (1) public member on the committee and one (1)

public member position remaining to be filled by a Board member. There are two (2) additional seats that can be filled immediately in the following categories:

1) Industry member (RPF) 2) Government member (RPF)

The PFEC is charged with the examination of individuals for registration as RPFs\_and certified specialists (CRMs). It initiates and monitors investigations into complaints made against RPFs and recommends appropriate disciplinary action to the Board pursuant to 14 CCR §1612. The PFEC also provides oversight for the specialty certificate programs adopted by the Board.

PFEC members are generally appointed to a four-year term, serving at the pleasure of the board. The PFEC currently meets approximately 4 to 5 times per year, depending on the level of licensing and disciplinary issues. PFEC members receive per diem and re-imbursement of expenses for their travel, lodging and meals when attending meetings.

A nomination form may be found at the following URL: <u>https://bof.fire.ca.gov/</u>posted under <u>Business</u>, then select <u>News Releases and Announcements</u>.

You may mail or FAX this form to the Board at: Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, PFEC Nomination P.O. Box 944246 Sacramento, CA 94244-2460 [FAX] (916) 653-0989

You may also email the nomination form to the Executive Officer of Foresters Licensing at: <u>dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov</u>. <u>Nominations must be received no later than January 3</u>, <u>2021</u>, at 5:00 p.m.

## Personal Identity Survey for Foresters by Julia Toro

## Take the Survey >>>> Click Here.

Please feel free to reach out to me (Julia Toro) with any questions or comments: <u>jctoro@berkeley.edu</u>.

**Why this survey exists** - I am a Master of Forestry Student at UC Berkeley studying the ways in which race and ethnicity intersect with natural resource management, specifically forestry in California. I created this survey to gain a better understanding of the personal identities of people involved with forestry in CA.

All results of this survey will remain anonymous and confidential. I will be using the aggregated data from the multiple choice questions as well as the written responses to inform my understanding of my research topic and will potentially use this survey

data in my thesis. Aggregated data from the multiple choice questions will be shared with the Board of Forestry as well. Please be as detailed or as brief with your answers as you feel comfortable. All questions are optional. Thank you so much for participating.

## **Forestry Career Information**

California Licensed Forester Association Employment Announcements https://www.clfa.org/employment-announcements/

#### Society of American Foresters Career Page

http://careercenter.eforester.org/home/index.cfm?site\_id=8482

#### Outreach for Future RPFs by Dan Stapleton

This year, I made outreach trips to the CCC's in Redding and Stockton, Mendocino College, Upper Lake High School and Potters Valley High School in



Mendocino County, and Yreka High School in Yreka. I then had remote "online" meetings with Humboldt State and College of the Redwoods. L am prepared to tailor my presentations to all interested high school groups from to university level students, to Boys and Girl Scouts, to the CCCs or FFA. Please help me to pass the word

about careers in forestry and send me any suggestions you may have about groups who may be interested in hearing about career development and opportunities in the forestry field. Call the Office of Professional Foresters Registration 916-653-8031 or email me at <u>dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov</u>.

## **BOF Research Plan Development – Online Survey**

The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is required to periodically inventory, assess and report on the State's priorities for forest management research and to suggest needed projects. We would appreciate your input on topics and issues the Board should prioritize moving forward.

The link below will take you to a brief online survey. It should take approximately 10 -15 minutes to participate. Your valued input will help guide development of an updated Research Plan. The Board appreciates your time and consideration. Matt Dias, Executive Officer, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

## Take the Survey >>>> Click Here

## The Hydrogeomorphic Consequences of Post-Fire Salvage Logging: Good, Bad, or Neutral?

#### By

*Will Olsen – Senior Environmental Scientist, Forest Practice Monitoring Specialist, CAL FIRE Drew Coe – RPF 2981; Forest Practice Monitoring Coordinator, CAL FIRE* 

Following the 2020 fire season, we expect an unprecedented amount of post-fire salvage logging to occur across California's timberlands. It is important that landowners quickly recover the value of timber damaged or destroyed during wildfire while also affording a high degree of resource protection. This short synopsis of recent California-specific research on the hydrologic and geomorphic effects of salvage logging is intended to highlight advances in our understanding of how these activities interact with burned areas. Ideally, it provides an initial foundation for practitioners to achieve neutral and/or positive water quality outcomes following wildfire and salvage logging.

Rainfall simulation research following the 2015 Valley Fire on Boggs Mountain Demonstration

State Forest at the small plot scale  $(\approx 5.3 \text{ ft}^2)$  found that the soils on the burned and uncompacted plots had more water repellency than the compacted skid trail plots. Despite the lack of water repellency on the skid trail plots, the more compacted soils produced 44% more runoff and 78% more sediment than areas that were burned and not compacted. When compared to bare plots, 60% slash cover reduced runoff by 50% and 33% on non-compacted and skid trail plots, respectively. In comparison to bare plots, slash cover reduced erosion by 72% and 69% for noncompacted and skid trail plots, respectively.<sup>1</sup> Research at the hillslope scale ( $\approx 800 \text{ ft}^2$ ) found that during the second water year following the fire (WY 2017), unlogged and burned hillslope

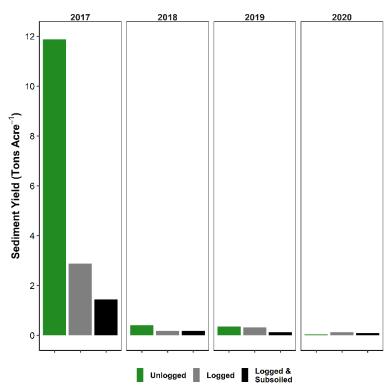


Figure 1: Mean hillslope sediment yield by water year at Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest. Bar color indicates hillslope treatment. Adapted from Cole et al., 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Prats, S.A., M.C. Malvar, and J.W. Wagenbrenner. 2020. Compaction and cover effects on runoff and erosion in post-fire salvage logged areas in the Valley wildfire, California. Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.22541/au.159171203.37195794

plots produced 11.8 tons per acre of sediment, compared to 2.9 tons per acre for logged plots, and 1.4 tons per acre for logged and subsoiled plots (Figure 1).<sup>2</sup> These differences were attributed to the increased woody cover generated by logging activities, increased ground roughness due to subsoiling, and increased rain splash energy attributed to the formation of larger raindrops on the residual burned canopy of the unlogged plots.

At the larger scale, five years of research in 0.3 to 2 acre headwater catchments in the 2013 Rim Fire in the Sierra Nevada Mountains produced sediment yields in the first year of logging of 0.05 to 5.3 tons per acre within unlogged catchments, and 0.5 to 1.4 tons per acre within salvage logged catchments, underscoring site to site variability in post-fire and post-salvage logging responses.<sup>3</sup> Sediment yields were strongly

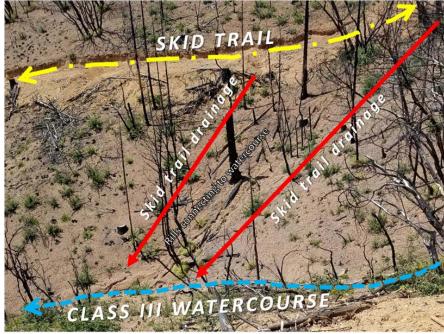


Figure 2: Runoff diverted by waterbars off a skid trail outside of the ELZ, discharging into a mapped Class III watercourse on the Carr Fire.

related to rill erosion, and within logged catchments rills increased in prevalence with skid trails. The tendency of skid trails to intercept and produce runoff, led to rill formation that then merged at waterbars and

were routed downslope. Skid trails routing this runoff to bare soil patches near ephemeral channels allowed for sediment delivery to the drainage network. Residual post-fire ground cover, dense areas of slash, or high surface roughness from logging were observed to break up flow paths, decreasing rills downslope, and encouraging sediment deposition and dispersing runoff. These areas of dense cover and roughness in turn disconnected logging disturbance and bare soil patches from the drainage network. A 2019 random sample<sup>4</sup> of 54 Notice of

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Cole, R.P., K.D. Bladon, J.W. Wagenbrenner, and D.B.R. Coe. 2020. Hillslope sediment production after wildfire and post-fire forest management in northern California. Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.13932
 <sup>3</sup> Olsen, W.H., J.W. Wagenbrenner, and P.R. Robichaud. 2020. Factors affecting connectivity and sediment yields following wildfire and post-fire salvage logging in California's Sierra Nevada. Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.13984

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Olsen, W.H., D.B.R. Coe, S. Stanish, P. Cafferata. 2019. Report on Emergency Notice of Timber Operations Monitoring Results and Exemption Notice Use. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Sacramento, CA. 35 p. plus Appendices.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/345036759 REPORT ON EMERGENCY NOTICE OF TIMBER OPERATI ONS MONITORING RESULTS AND EXEMPTION NOTICE USE

Emergency Timber Operations submitted in 2018 for salvage of timber on private timberlands, the majority of which were for wildfires from 2017 and 2018, found that skid trails discharged to watercourses on 21% of Emergency Notices. Substantial discharges were observed on tractor crossings of Class III watercourses and from skid trail drainage. Ten percent of all sampled skid trails had drainage from the trail discharge to an operational riparian buffer and subsequently enter a watercourse, due to convergent slopes and observed lack of sufficient ground cover between skid trails and the drainage network (Figure 2). In every case where a gully formed on a sampled skid trail in close proximity to a watercourse, a sediment discharge also resulted, likely due to the increased volume of runoff. Substantial sediment discharges to watercourses occurred when downslope surfaces were comprised of bare soil or less than 50% ground cover.

Emergency Notice monitoring also found that a total of 30% of sampled road-watercourse crossings had one yard<sup>3</sup> or more of sediment discharge, largely due to inadequate hydrologic

disconnection of approaches, or erosionprone fills used in crossing construction, in conjunction with increased runoff from road prisms and adjacent hillslopes. Additional BMP's such as rock armoring of approaches and crossing fills resulted in lower observed sediment discharges. Sediment delivery from road segments to watercourses was found on 39% of sampled haul roads in the 2019 monitoring. Forty-two percent of observed sediment discharges were one yard<sup>3</sup> or greater, with observations indicating these larger discharges were due to bare soil downslope of road drainage points and road failures. When surfaces below drainage points had at least 50% cover or an armored surface, sediment discharges were reduced and frequently were less than one yard<sup>3</sup> or "trace" amounts (Figure 3). Recent modeling efforts within the 2012 Ponderosa Fire<sup>5</sup> indicated the potential for up to 53% of roads within areas burned at high severity to have connectivity to the stream network, compared to only 28% pre-fire in those same areas, in addition to increased sediment delivery rates post-fire.

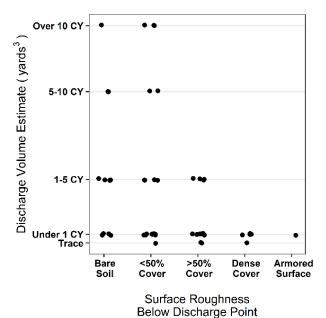


Figure 3: Discharges from haul roads to watercourses and the roughness condition below the discharge point (simplified category names shown). Decreasing sediment volume estimates followed increasing surface roughness.

Common misconceptions remain about post-fire salvage logging and its potential role in reducing post-fire runoff and erosion, including the belief that logging-induced ground

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Benda, L., C. James, D. Miller, and K. Andras. 2019. Road Erosion and Delivery Index (READI): A Model for Evaluating Unpaved Road Erosion and Stream Sediment Delivery. JAWRA Journal of the American Water Resources Association. http://doi.wiley.com/10.1111/1752-1688.12729.

disturbance improves erosional outcomes by breaking up soil water repellency. These recent results from research and monitoring in California on post-fire salvage logging dispel some of these misconceptions and underscore the wide variability that can be found in post-fire landscapes and their hydrogeomorphic response to fire and management. This recent research indicates that logging activity that sufficiently interrupts flow paths and/or increases surface roughness may act to reduce hillslope erosion rates. However, disturbance from ground based equipment can result in both positive, neutral, and/or negative impacts depending upon the type of mechanical disturbance (i.e., subsoiling vs. skidding) and its location relative to watercourse networks. Evidence indicates there is a need for proper skid trail layout, as well as directing drainage from skid trails to areas of higher ground cover or logging slash, especially when near watercourses. The enhanced runoff from skid trails, often in combination with increased hillslope runoff and erosion, may cause detrimental sediment discharges from ground based operations that are counterproductive to intended forest restoration goals during salvage logging. Likewise, road-watercourse crossings and road drainage points often require additional effort to ensure drainage discharges are into areas of sufficient ground cover, and greater care with hauling activity during wet weather periods, due to increased surface and subsurface runoff, and less resilient post-fire landscapes.

Ultimately, increasing the likelihood of favorable outcomes comes down to the interaction between the RPF and the LTO, as this combination of licensed professionals can ensure that the appropriate post-fire practices are implemented, and the activities that magnify post-fire impacts are avoided.

# LTCC gets grant to develop 1st of its kind forestry program by Danielle Starkey. Reprinted with permission from the Tahoe Daily Tribune.



The fragility of the Tahoe Basin's economy has perhaps never been more on display than during the ongoing pandemic. Jobs in the hospitality industry, many of them seasonal and low paying collapsed, and only recently have they begun sputtering back to life.

Kim Carr, a South Lake Tahoe based consultant doing forestry and climate change work for the past 20 years, has been working on a project that not only will build a more diversified

regional workforce, it will create healthier forests. Her efforts paid off this week with news that the state will award grants totaling close to \$800,000 to develop a forestry degree at Lake Tahoe Community College that will be the first of its kind at a California community college. LTCC Dean Brad Deeds, who has been overseeing and developing this program, made the announcement recently during a Tahoe Chamber meeting. That accomplishment was nothing short of a coup at a time when state dollars are being closely guarded. "Other community colleges in California have forestry programs," said Carr, who has taught in the environmental studies area at the college and was the principal grant writer for the newly created LTCC Forest Health and Job Placement Program. "But their focus is on fire suppression or on supporting the timber industry. Our focus will be on forest restoration and resiliency."

The need for such programs is great, especially in the west, which has suffered massive forest fires and clumsy restoration efforts, according to Andy Lipkis, founder of Tree People, a 37-year old environmental nonprofit organization. "This is much needed and good news," he said. "The land needs this specialized care and young people need quality jobs which require this kind of training." Maintaining forests is a dynamic process, especially in an era of extreme climate change he added. "California employs so many people after the fires start, when we should be increasing soil moisture and reducing runoff and the growth of flashy fuels that can ignite a forest with a spark."

Carr said she was motivated to seek the funding not just because of her concern for forests and the broader ecosystem; she wanted to create a career pathway for people who are passionate about forests. Tahoe is the ideal location for that, she added.

"The greatest threat we face in the Tahoe Basin is wildfire, so having more people knowledgeable and skilled in the field has so many benefits," she said. "The number of fires, the acres burned, the intensity of these fires and the costs — both in assets and people's lives — are increasing."

And yet while the state has responded by dedicating more dollars to reduce the risk of wildfires by performing tree thinning, prescribed burns and transporting cut biomass out of the forest, they've run into a problem. "We can't find enough qualified people wanting to do the work," said Carr, who for two years was California State Director of the National Forest Foundation. "Time after time, (state agencies) listed a position and couldn't fill it." When that happens, they have to contract out the specialized work. "When work is contracted out, the cost per acre to do the work goes up," Carr said. "Because there are not enough private contractors, they can bid very high."

A recent study by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protections found that licensed foresters are aging out of the business at a spectacular rate. There are 1,159 registered professional foresters now, said Carr, and 48% have said they will retire in the next 10 years, at a time they're adding only 25 or so per year.

Carr said the LTCC curriculum is being developed jointly by the college and potential employers of its graduates, including the California Tahoe Conservancy; the US Forest Service; the Tahoe Resource Conservation District and the California Conservation Corps.

"We're facing two major threats in Tahoe: the economic impacts of COVID-19 and the impacts of climate change, especially wildfires," she said. "This program will help address both of those."

## THE TIMBER TAX PROGRAM NEEDS YOUR HELP

There has been an unprecedented increase of large-scale, catastrophic wildfires in California in recent years. The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) is sympathetic to the emotional and financial losses victims of wildfires experience. The timber tax system makes allowances for a significant reduction in yield tax liability to help ease this burden, but to do this, the CDTFA Timber Tax Program needs your help.

#### How You Can Help

Our timber tax appraisers may call upon you to provide timber sale and cost information. We ask that you cooperate with the appraiser, as the information will greatly assist us in obtaining accurate and fair timber values. Without timely, current sales information, our timber appraisers, who work in conjunction with the Timber Advisory Committee, cannot effectively do their jobs to develop accurate and fair timber values for use in computing yield tax liability.

#### Why We Need the Information

Timber Tax appraisers are highly skilled registered professional foresters trained in real property appraisal techniques. Our foresters collect confidential sales information from all available private and public sources. It is important to have a large sample size to make the statistical analysis as accurate as possible. We protect the confidentiality of our sources and the information they provide. We only release sales information in a *source neutral, summary fashion*. Our sources and the information they provide is kept confidential and secure.

#### How the Timber Yield Tax Helps You

The timber yield tax uses comparative sales information to value timber for tax purposes when timber is harvested commercially. You can find the information on our website at <u>https://www.cdtfa.ca.gov/lawguides/vol4/tyt/tyt.html</u>. The timber yield tax is a property tax that becomes due and payable at the time timber is harvested. After state administration costs, the revenues generated from the yield tax are returned to the original counties of harvest. The counties decide how the funds, which are directly sent to their general fund, will be used for the welfare of the general public. Police officers, fire protection, public works, and schools are frequently paid for by the general fund.

#### For More Information

For more information on the timber yield tax program, please visit our webpage at <u>www.cdtfa.ca.gov/taxes-and-fees/timber-tax.htm</u>. You may also contact us toll free at 1-800-400-7115 (CRS 711), Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Pacific time), except state holidays, or online at <u>https://cdtfa.ca.gov/email/</u>.

Thank you for your assistance in cooperating with our timber Yield tax appraisers.





Western larch trees planted among Douglas-fir regeneration in Oregon.