



CALIFORNIA
LICENSED
FORESTERS
ASSOCIATION

*The Voice of
California's
Licensed
Foresters*

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California Licensed Foresters Association

August 2021 - Newsletter

President's Message Jason Wells, CLFA President

I joined the CLFA Board of Directors in 2017 after only having my license for a year. I wanted to join the Board because of the opportunity to network with other foresters, and absorb as much knowledge as I could from those with knowledge to share. In my time on the Board I have met and worked with some truly fantastic individuals, been given opportunities to represent our license and profession in discussions with state policy makers, and I've learned more about forestry and forest policy just by being around discussions with smarter people than myself who have graciously served on the board (often serving after having already served in the past). I'll also mention that networking through CLFA has been invaluable since I began working at an office where I am the only forester on staff; building a forestry program is not easy, and it has been so very helpful having a larger group of colleagues to turn to for help. In the time I've been on the board CLFA has been a part of really important discussions and we have accomplished a lot:

- **Stocking standards were changed** to reflect changes in planting stock and fire hazard since the initial rules were adopted; CLFA provided a workshop series on the coast and inland to collect **input from practicing foresters that went to those directly crafting the policy** change.
- We have **continued working with CAL FIRE Archaeology** to provide surveyor training, and a significant amount of time has gone into providing comments and discussing issues that foresters were having in the field and with THP approval.
- In collaboration with Brian White, our Government Affairs Specialist, California Forestry Association, Associated California Loggers Farm Bureau and others, **we educated legislators in advance of SB-901**, which ended up being a generational bill in terms of forest management, incorporating language that put through the Working Forest Management Plan, Allowed NTMPs to benefit multiple timberland owners, and created the forest fire prevention exemption pilot program.
- **We hired FRST CORP** to fully represent the board at the Board of Forestry meetings, they have done an exemplary job representing us in discussions and providing detailed synopsis of the ongoings at those meetings, both at our board meetings and as reports in the newsletter.
- We worked with the PFEC to **provide additional testing sites for the RPF exam** when it was announced the exam would only take place in Sacramento.
- We updated our website, and have worked to improve communications with our members, and we have continued providing the services that our members expect of us, including putting on **two workshops/conferences a year** and continuing **outreach to student members** via scholarships and participation in events like The Forestry Challenge.

These are just some of the highlights that come to mind when I think back on what has already been done, but my focus remains on the pressing matters that still need to be dealt with.

First and foremost, we need to address the critical issue facing our licensing in terms of the numbers of active RPFs. CLFA has increased our outreach efforts, although the pandemic has slowed our progress, we were able to partner with a student-lead mentorship program at UCB which is expanding this year to the other major forestry schools. We also may need to consider working with PFEC to improve passing rates on the exam while maintaining a rigorous curriculum that allows the license to continue to be meaningful. We've been talking about developing study groups and/or study guides to help prospective licensees along the way.

Second to the issue of our declining numbers, I am still very concerned about fuels management activities happening throughout the forested environment without RPF involvement. I also recognize that without readily available and capable RPFs to lead these projects, this is not a problem that will be solved in a way that respects our license. My hope is that the increased attention to fuels management in the state will provide an avenue with which to increase prospective RPF examinees, but we will have to work to make that connection and support those who are willing to study for and take the exam, but who may not have the traditional background which would lead someone to becoming an RPF.

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President's Message cont.

Finally, if you've read this far, I'd like to request that you consider letting us know how you think we are doing, if there are any major points of contention that you feel the board isn't addressing and, if there is, consider joining an ad-hoc committee through the board to see the problem addressed. Forestry in California is a small community, and it's getting smaller. The issues we are dealing with could have a major impact on our license, and while this organization's founding purpose is to represent and protect our license, it is a volunteer organization and we are only as capable as those among us who step up to help make important actions happen. My time serving on the board has been tremendously fulfilling, and if you are curious about potentially joining, an ad-hoc committee would be a great way to help address a specific issue while seeing if participating on the board would be right for you.



Area on right untreated prior to 2020 Glass Fire; Area on left treated via thin & broadcast Rx fire in 2019



Forest Practice—BOF

Katherine Benedict—Regulatory Rep to CLFA

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection met on July 13-14, 2021 via webinar. The next Board meeting is currently scheduled for September 21-23, 2021; there is no meeting in August 2021. The agenda for the August meeting has not yet been published, however the agenda for the July meeting is available at:

<https://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/business/meeting-agendas-and-annual-schedules/>

The following is a summary of items of greatest interest to the RPF community from the July Board of Forestry Meeting:

Joint Committee Meeting Summary Management Committee

- This [draft rule text](#) changed the definition of Crop of Trees to “not include those trees within the defensible space zone designated for more intense fuel reduction pursuant to PRC § 4291 within 30-feet of a building or structure which is subject to PRC § 4291.” Cal Fire expressed concern with this change; Board staff will continue to work on this issue to address concerns with the current definition of Crop of Trees.
- The Lewis A. Moran Reforestation Center in Davis released their [seedling pricing for 2022](#), which will be \$0.50/seedling for contract orders of 1,000 seedling/species minimum, \$0.60/seedling for speculative orders of 1-499 seedlings, or \$0.55/seedling for speculative orders of 500+ seedlings. Nursery staff are on track to produce 185,000 seedlings this year. These prices were approved at the Full Board Meeting.
- The Meadows and Cutover Land [draft rule text](#) was presented. In this draft, changes made last month to eliminate references to ‘cutover land’ as it is not defined and change references to ‘Meadows and Other Wet Areas’ to ‘Meadows’ and ‘Wet Areas’ as it is defined in 895.1 still persist. Three options for changing the definition of ‘Wet Areas’ were presented; the second option is most similar to the Water Board’s definition of Wetlands and was generally the most well received option. Board staff will continue to investigate this definition, as well as the initial intent of the use of the phrases wet areas versus wet meadows in the FPRs.

Forest Practice Committee

- This [draft of the Botanical Guidance Memo](#) provides additional clarity and discussion on plants that require scoping, CNPS plant rankings, and avoidance measures, while also providing more specific examples. Agencies (CDFW and Cal Fire) plan to further review this draft and provide comment; however, Cal Fire expressed concern that this new draft teeters on being a regulatory document instead of just a guidance document. The Board will review and make changes from these comments and received written comment. Public comment requested by **COB on August 13th**.
- The draft rule text for [Emergency Rulemaking](#) for RPF Responsibility and slash treatment and the associated [NOPA](#) were presented. This rule text makes all previous RPF Responsibility changes from previous months and requires slash to be treated within 1 year from the date of acceptance by the Director. The Board approved this Emergency Rulemaking at the Full Board Meeting; this will likely go into effect August 1st.

Full Board Meeting

- Executive Session – No reportable actions taken.
- Consent Calendar Items – Motion confirmed unanimously to approve all consent calendar items, including the July [Rulemaking Matrix](#), approval of a [Charter Update](#) for the Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation, and the appointment of [Nuin-Tara Key](#) to the Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation.
- Monthly Board Reports
 - Chairman’s Report (Chair Gillis): In this report Gillis shared that the Board and the Resource Agency Staff are still looking at the Utility ROW Exemption rule package; it may not go into effect January 1st, 2022.
 - CAL FIRE [Director’s Report](#) (Chief Thom Porter): The report discussed how JSDF is working through issues on one of their THPs and has halted operations on it, with an intent to do more education and outreach before beginning again. Additionally, Porter discussed current fire conditions and outlook of a very busy fire season.
- Executive Officer Report:
 - [Legislative Update](#)
 - SB 85 – BOF did not directly receive funding from SB 85; however, Resource Management gave \$2mil to the BOF for a CalVTP implementation project.
 - The Board approved the Board/Cal Fire Report on Exempt Timber Harvesting for the Reduction of Fire Hazard Within 150 Feet of Structures.
 - The Board approved the revised [Fire Risk Reduction Communities List](#) rule plead, as well as the associated [15 Day Notice](#) and Supplemental Statement of Reason ([SSOR](#)).
- Report of the Standing Committees
 - Resource Protections Committee – Darcy Wheelles, Committee Chair: Committee discussed the Land Use Planning Program update, update on PRC 4290.5 Fire Safety Survey/Subdivision Review Unit, and Safety Element Review for the Cities of [Wildomar](#), [Rolling Hills Estates](#), [Westlake Village](#), and [El Cajon](#).



Forest Practice—BOF cont.

- Report of Board’s Advisory Committees
 - Professional Foresters Examining Committee – Licensing Officer, Dan Stapleton: 28% pass rate of April 2021 RPF Exam with 11 individuals passing. The Board approved the [RPF Vital Statics](#) and the PFEC [policy updates](#); the CRM [Program for Certification](#) was introduced.
 - Effectiveness Monitoring Committee – Sue Husari, Kristina Wolf, and Drew Coe:
 1. The results of the Preliminary Research Assessment for EMC-2015-001 (Multiscale investigation of perennial flow and thermal influence of headwater streams into fish bearing streams) were presented in reference to the Class II-L identification for Anadromous Salmonid Protections (the current identification methods sun-setting in January 2023). Currently, drainage size and active channel width are used to identify Class II-L’s. The study found that drainage area was more important than channel width in determining stream sizing, but that winter precipitation was even more important than drainage size.
 2. The development of [grant proposals](#), which will be due on September 21, 2022, and the release of the 2021/2022 EMC [Request for Proposals](#), which will be due by September 21, 2022, were presented on.
- Special Board Hearings/Reports –
 - Public Hearings: The Southern Subdistrict and Broadcast Burning Amendments ([rule text](#), [ISOR](#)) hearing was uneventful. This item will likely be approved in September.
 - Presentation: [Small Scale Lumber Grading](#) – Lon Sibert, Renewable Resource Associates, Inc. This presentation offered basics on structural lumber grading. The CA Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan created by the Forest Management Task Force required that the BOF “explore the potential for Registered Professional Foresters to become third-party certified as Lumber Graders.” This presentation came as a response to this request; additionally, the PFEC produced a [white paper](#) exploring their findings.



Legislation

Joe Starr—Committee Chair

Key Upcoming Dates

- **July 16th – August 15th** Summer legislative recess
- **August 16th** Legislature reconvenes
- **Aug. 27th** Last day for bills to pass fiscal committees
- **Sept. 10th** Last day for Legislature to pass bills for Governor’s consideration
- **Sept. 14th** Governor’s recall vote
- **Oct. 10th** Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills

Legislature Takes Summer Break Following Budget Agreement, More Work Remains as Governor’s September Recall Election Looms

The 2021 legislative session is getting closer to wrapping up but not before the Legislature takes its month-long summer recess which started on July 16th. Prior to that, legislators debated several bills over a three-week period so bills could meet the July 14th policy committee deadline. Bills that did not pass out of the policy committees by July 14th will now become two-year bills unless they were provided special reconsideration.

While several ambitious wildfire bills introduced earlier in the legislative session have already been whittled down with many sitting on the sidelines, a handful of bills are still alive seeking to address various policy areas, including a bill to extend the 300-foot THP defensible space exemption for four years; a bill providing liability protection for fire suppression costs associated with prescribed burns; legislation providing two 2-year extensions for a THP approved between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2015; a bill seeking to enhance fire safety building and home hardening standards; and legislation requiring the state to identify high and moderate fire hazard severity zones while expanding building standards to those new zones (see attached chart). Most of these bills will now move to the respective fiscal committee where they will hold hearing in mid-August to consider the fiscal impacts. All bills must move out of the fiscal committees by August 27th for full consideration on the Assembly or Senate Floor. All bills that are still alive must pass the Legislature by September 10th for the governor’s consideration.

On the budget front, Governor Newsom signed a revised budget agreement last week to reflect a \$263 billion spending plan for fiscal year 2021-22. Lawmakers originally passed a 900-page budget bill (AB 128 – Ting) as a procedural move to meet the June 15th constitutional deadline. They followed that up with passage of so-called “budget bill junior” ([AB 129 – Ting](#)) and several other budget trailer bills that were signed by the governor as part of his “California Comeback Plan.” The revised budget provides increased funding for education, homelessness, small business relief, rent relief, water and utility bill payments, economic stimulus checks, and wildfire funding. While Democrats celebrated the increased spending for key programs, Republicans expressed concerns it fails to plan for future deficits and may require future tax increases to make up for future budget shortfalls. The increased funding in the budget was made possible due to a budget surplus of well over \$60 billion, which relied on tax receipts from high-wage earners and the state’s progressive tax system.

Despite enactment of the overall budget, dozens of budget trailer bills are still pending, and they could surface at any time up until the Legislature adjourns on September 10th. This includes details on how to spend nearly \$1 billion for various clean energy and transportation investments, including additional funding from the state state’s cap-and-trade program. There will also be follow-up details and agreements between the Governor, Senate and Assembly on how to spend funding for various wildfire programs as the state heads into the inevitable late summer and fall wildfire months. To date, the Legislature has appropriated \$536 million in early action funding for wildfire prevention, natural resources, and forest resiliency for the 2021-22 fiscal year. The Legislature initially allocated \$10 million as an early action item to fund the CFIP program with an additional \$40 million as part of the overall 2021-22 budget.



Legislation cont.

Overall funding for wildfire, including the early action items, could reach \$1 billion after details are worked out. The increased funding wildfires and other resources areas to address drought, water conservation, water quality and climate change are in part an effort by the Governor to fund programs now and avoid the possibility of having the Legislature pass a potential bond for voter consideration in 2022. A full report on the Legislature's budget actions can be found here – [Floor Report of the 2021-22 Budget](#) (see pages 79-81 for CalFire and wildfire funding dollars).

What About That Recall?

While the Legislature is on summer break after meeting budget and policy committee deadlines, more attention is beginning to shift towards the inevitable recall election that Governor Newsom will face on September 14th. With 1.7 million signatures agreeing to sign the recall petition, it was all but certain it had enough valid signatures and a recall would take place. The recall ballot will have two separate questions that will require majority approval from voters. At least 51% of percent of voters must agree to the recall and if successful, must then decide who should replace him by whoever captures the most votes.

Most political observers think Governor Newsom will beat the recall based on recent [polling numbers](#) which reveal voters have a higher approval rating of his job performance than they did just two months ago when the state was under severe COVID restrictions. In addition, most of the 41 candidates that have been certified by the Secretary of State seeking to replace him do not have any star power to match what former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger did in ousting former Governor Gray Davis in 2003.

But there are some potential wildcards in the mix that could negatively impact Newsom's fate, including low voter Democrat turnout unmotivated to cast a vote, significant wildfire outbreaks, and rolling blackouts due to extreme heat waves. In an ironic twist, Governor Newsom's party identification will not appear on the ballot because he failed to meet a mandatory deadline for filing the proper paperwork which would have stated his party preference on the ballot. But it may not matter since he is already well known in the state and his millions of dollars to get his message out unlike several other candidates such as former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, former gubernatorial candidate John Cox, reality TV star Caitlyn Jenner, former Congressman Doug Ose, and Assembly Member Kevin Kiley.

It remains to be seen how the vote turns out but Democrat legislative leaders took advantage of the governor's current positive poll numbers and passed a bill two weeks ago that expedited the election by allowing it to be held in September while his poll numbers may still be good, instead of October or November when there could be a lot more challenges and uncertainty. Only time (and money) will tell . . .



Water/Wildlife/Botany

Mark Pugsley — Committee Chair

WATER

State Water Resource Control Board

Drought Information and Updates

In response to Gov. Newsomes [Drought Emergency](#) declaration for 41 counties the state Water Control Board has begun the process of curtailing junior Water Rights from some of major watersheds. [Drought and Water Rights Frequently Asked Questions](#) can be found here.

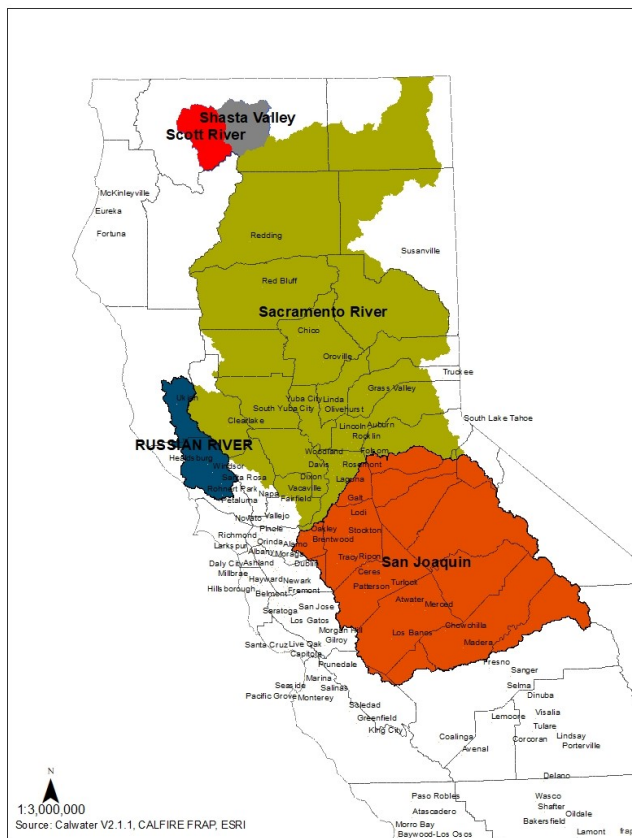
Curtailment of Water Rights for 1600 claimants has begun in the following watershed:

[Russian River Watershed](#)-further curtailments are expected in the near future.

Curtailments are proposed in the following watersheds:

[Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds](#)

[Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed](#)





Water/Wildlife/Botany cont.

WATER cont.

Region 1-North Coast

The Board last met on June 17th via teleconference.No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available, but the agenda is. [Agenda](#).

The next meeting is scheduled for August 19th via teleconference. No forestry action items on agenda..

Region 2- San Francisco Bay

The Board last met on July 14th via teleconference.No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available, but the agenda is. [Agenda](#).

The next meeting is scheduled for September 8th via teleconference. No agenda is available at this time.

Region 3-Central Coast

The Board last met on June 18th via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available, but the agenda is. [Agenda](#).

The next meeting is scheduled for August 12th via teleconference; the agenda is not yet available.

Region 5-Central Valley

The Board last met on June 17th via teleconference for the Strategic Planning Workshop. Minutes are not yet available, but the agenda is. [Agenda](#).

The next meeting is scheduled for August 12th via teleconference; the agenda is not yet available.

Region 6-Lahontan

The Board last met on June 16th via teleconference . No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available but the audio of the meeting is available on the Region's webpage. [Agenda](#).

The next meeting is scheduled for September 15th Via teleconference; the agenda is not yet available.



Water/Wildlife/Botany cont.

WILDLIFE

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

A new wolf pack is confirmed in Siskiyou County. “The [Whaleback Pack](#) consists of the male wolf OR-85 and an uncollared female. They occupy a 480 mi² home range in eastern Siskiyou County. OR-85 was collared by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in February 2020 and was likely born in 2019. He dispersed from the Mount Emily Pack near La Grande, Oregon and entered California in November 2020. The female wolf’s origin is unknown at this time. GPS collar locations indicate the pair denned in spring 2021.”(CDFW)

California Fish and Game Commission

The Board last met on June 16 and 17th via teleconference. [Agenda](#)

The following species are now listed as Threatened or Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act, the Final Rule is expected to be ratified 30 days after this meeting:

[Northern California Summer Steelhead](#)(*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*)

Background: In September 2018 FGC received a petition to list the species. In June 2019 FGC determined that listing under CESA may be warranted. In the Status Review Report presented to the Commission during the June 2021 meeting both Fish and Game Commission and CDFW staff scientists determined that listing under CESA was not warranted at this time, however the FGC voted to list the species as Endangered. The full report is available by following the link provided above, a map of the historic and current range of the Northern California Summer Steelhead is available on page 37. **Accessible habitat occurs in parts of the following counties: Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, Lake, Glenn Colusa, and Sonoma.**

[Upper Klamath-Trinity River spring Chinook salmon](#) (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

Background: In July 2018 FGC received a petition to list the species. During the February 2019 meeting the FGC determined that listing under CESA may be warranted. In the Status Review Report presented to the Commission during the June 2021 meeting both Fish and Game Commission and CDFW staff scientists determined that listing under CESA was not warranted at this time, however the FGC voted to list the species as Threatened. The full report is available by following the link provided above, a map of the historic and current range of the upper Klamath-Trinity River Spring Chinook Salmon is available on page 33. **The Klamath Watershed includes parts of the following counties: Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity, Modoc, and Shasta; along with counties in southern Oregon.**

[Clara Hunt’s milkvetch](#) (*Astragalus claranus*)

Background: First listed as Threatened in 1991, the December 2019 Species Status Report recommended changing the list status to Endangered. In June 2021 the Commission voted to change the species list status to Endangered. The full report is available by following the link above, the species exists in 6 populations along the **Napa/Sonoma county line in grasslands.**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 18-19th via teleconference; the agenda is not yet available.



Licensing

Robert Little—Licensing Chair

The link below will take you to the 2021 Summer BOF Licensing newsletter:

<https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/professional-foresters-registration/licensing-news/>

Announcements

Randy Moore to serve as 20th Chief of the USDA Forest Service



On June 28th, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that Randy Moore will serve as the 20th Chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Forest Service.

“Randy Moore has been a catalyst for change and creativity in carrying out the Forest Service’s mission to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations,” said

Secretary Vilsack. “In his role as Regional Forester, Randy has been a conservation leader on the forefront of climate change, most notably leading the Region’s response to the dramatic increase in catastrophic wildfires in California over the last decade. His proven track record of supporting and developing employees and putting communities at the center of the Forest Service’s work positions him well to lead the agency into the future at this critical time in our country.”

Upon swearing in, Moore will serve as the first African American to hold the role of Chief of the Forest Service.

Current Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen will step down from her role on July 26. Chief Christiansen and Regional Forester Moore will continue to collaborate on an intentional leadership transition between now and then as the Forest Service gears up for a tough summer of predicted elevated fire activity across the Western United States.



2021 CLFA BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- 6;

BOARD MEETINGS

2021

- ◆ August 24, 2021—6:00 pm to 8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ September 18, 2021—8:00 am to 11:30 pm—Museum of the Sierra, Shaver Lake
 - ◆ Field day following Board meeting— 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- ◆ October 19, 2021—6:00 pm to 8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ November 19, 2021—11:00 am to 4:00 pm—Eureka, CA—TBD
- ◆ **December—Dark**

2022

- ◆ January 15, 2022—9:00 am to 2:00 pm—Granzellas, Williams
- ◆ February 15, 2022—6:00 pm to 8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ March 3, 2022—11:00 am to 4:00 pm—Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson
- ◆ March 3, 2022—5:00 pm to 8:00 pm—Legislative meeting—Gaia, Anderson
- ◆ April 19, 2022—6:00 pm to 8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ May 20, 2022—6:00 pm—7:00 pm—Audit
- ◆ May 21, 2022—9:00 am to 2:00 pm—Granzellas, Williams

CLFA WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES

2021

- ◆ November 20, 2021—Fall Conference, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson,

2022

- ◆ March 4 & 5, 2022—Spring Conference, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson

2020/2021 CLFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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