



CALIFORNIA
LICENSED
FORESTERS
ASSOCIATION

*The Voice of
California's
Licensed
Foresters*

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California Licensed Foresters Association

December 2020 - Newsletter

President's Message

Ariel Roughton, CLFA President

While the impact of COVID forced a modified Thanksgiving celebration for many, it has not diminished the opportunity to reflect on and consider what I am thankful for this year. In a year that is nothing as we had planned for and anticipated this exercise is all the more important.

Of the many things there are to be thankful for, my profession is high on the list. Throughout this year I've been privileged to continue to work and retain some sense of normalcy in my everyday life. Albeit in new and adjusted ways, I was still able to teach and work alongside an amazing crew of future foresters while facilitating multiple research projects and a successful timber sale. Beyond the work itself, this year has reminded me of how fortunate I am for the privilege of working in California's forestlands, a workplace not many have the pleasure of calling their daily "office".

The nature of our work allowed some of our members to safely gather for the Fall Brown Bags to learn from each other and discuss the forest management issues we currently face. Those of us who attended the interior Brown Bag may have spent the day in the rain, wind, and cold, but I know there are few places we would have rather been than in the woods with our colleagues. While a standard event in any other year, this year I felt truly thankful to spend a day in the elements talking regeneration and watercourse crossings with fellow foresters.

It has been a difficult year for many both with COVID and the impacts of the record fire season. Add to this the many existing challenges facing the profession and effective management of California forestlands and you have what to many would seem a steep uphill climb. Despite these challenges foresters continue to show up and do the work that needs to be done to recover from and prepare for future disturbances. Our profession is filled with hardworking and dedicated individuals who are committed to the stewardship of the environment. For this I am thankful.

The CLFA Board is thankful for the opportunity to represent this profession and the individuals who comprise it. From myself and the entire CLFA board we hope that however you spent your Thanksgiving it was a happy one and wish you a safe and joyful holiday season!



A few things to be thankful for: burning on a wet fall day and an office with a view.



Forest Practice—BOF

Andrea Eggleton—Regulatory Rep to CLFA

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection met on November 3-4, 2020 via teleconference after a regular break for the dark October meeting. The next Board meeting is currently scheduled for December 8-9, 2020 and will be held via teleconference. The agenda for the December meeting has not yet been published, however the agenda for the November 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 November Board of Forestry Meeting:

Joint Committee Meeting Management Committee Business

1. [Conversion Exemption Revisions 14 CCR 1104](#) – goal is for rule package to be in place for January 1, 2022
 - A workshop was held in October on this item – summary of issues covered, resolved, and remaining is covered in a [staff report](#)
 - Many comments were presented from the public with concern over a perceived lack of CAL FIRE oversight of utility clearance projects, unnecessary trees being removed, lack of communication from the utility companies to residential landowners, etc. Other agencies are concerned with a perceived lack of noticing and large-scale projects occurring under the exemptions.
 - The Board prefers additional comments on the topic be submitted in writing.

Resource Protection Committee Business

1. Permanent Rulemaking for [Fire Safe Regulations](#) - 14 CCR 1270 et seq.
 - Extensive commentary on this item from Board Staff, agencies, and members of the public.
 - The majority of the meeting time was spent on this item.

1. Forest Practice Committee Business

- Forest Botany – [BOF Staff Report](#) and [Draft Problem Statement](#)
- This topic was only briefly covered for about 20 minutes at the Meeting. A workshop on the item was held on November 18.
- Workshop discussion was focused on issues relating to scoping. CDFW shared that their biggest concern is that the guidance documents relied upon for scoping and surveying do not provide “regulatory certainty,” and this causes THP review delays for both the agencies and plan submitters. CAL FIRE would like to see more consistent review standards from CDFW across regions, noting that plan submitters on the Coast are subject to higher botanical survey and documentation costs than interior regions.
- In response, The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) is currently gathering materials and information related to formal or documented scoping processes and procedures used to aid or assist in identifying a range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant effects for Projects under CEQA (PRC 21000 et seq., 14 CCR 15000 et seq) in order to inform potential future Board action related to the assessment of resources within the Timber Harvesting Process. If you have any such materials available for public sharing or distribution, the Board would greatly appreciate your participation in this process and the sharing of those materials. Any scoping documents or materials can be sent to: PublicComments@bof.ca.gov , or mailed to

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Attn: Eric Hedge
P.O. Box 944246,
Sacramento, CA, 94244-2460

- This item is being closely monitored by CLFA.



Forest Practice—BOF cont.

Full Board Meeting

1. Consent Calendar Items – September Board Meeting Minutes, [Rulemaking Matrix](#), [Advisory Council Member Reappointment](#) – approved
2. Monthly Board Reports
 - A. Chairman’s Report
 - B. CAL FIRE [Director’s Report](#) –Director Chief Porter
 - Only two active fires in SRA (Orange County)
 - Other 9 remaining active fires are on Federal lands and command- Creek Fire in Fresno County continues to be active
 - 20-30 initial attack fires in SRA daily
 - Since August 15, 3.9 million acres in CA have burned and 32 fatalities, still have over 4,000 CAL FIRE personnel still assigned to fires across the state
 - 9,058 structures destroyed
 - 15 of the 20 most destructive wildfires (in terms of structures lost) in CA have occurred since 2015
 - 6 of the top 10 largest wildfires in CA history have occurred this year
 - Over 4 million acres have burned in CA this year – historical record
 - Giant Sequoia impact on Mountain Home State Forest – Manager Jim Kral has estimated that HUNDREDS of old-growth giant sequoia in the Mountain Home Grove are dead. Giant sequoia regeneration is expected to be strong, as evidenced by “snow of oatmeal” seeds observed post-fire.
 - Exceeded Rx burn target – 27,000 acres were burned in the last fiscal year ending in June 2020, also completed all of the Governor’s 35 emergency fuels reduction projects, and met targets for acres completed on Combined Fuel Reduction Projects.
3. Executive Officer’s Report – Matt Dias, Executive Officer of the Board
 - A. 45 applicants to the open Environmental Science position at the Board
 - B. Legislation that pertains to the Board’s programs
 - i. [AB 3074](#) – mandates that the Board adopt regulations to address a 0-5 foot non-combustible defensible space zone, but also requires new legislative appropriations to address the fiscal impacts of the bill
 - ii. [SB 182](#) – Vetoed on the basis of potential impacts to the state’s housing shortage. The Governor acknowledges the need for wildfire prevention, but has to be more compatible with new housing.
 - C. Introduction and Board consideration of [DRAFT Resolution 2020-2](#) suspending certification of Fire Safe Ordinances pursuant to 14 CCR § 1270 *et seq.*
 - i. RESOLUTION APROVING A SUSPENSION ON LOCAL ORDINANCE CERTIFICATION PENDING ADOPTION OF STATUTORILY REQUIRED AMENDMENTS TO THE SRA FIRE SAFE REGULATIONS
 - ii. The reason for the Resolution is that continual review of local ordinances has become a large draw on Board Staff and Member time and has become inefficient to allow all of the proposed alternatives to the Board’s standard Fire Safe rules
 - iii. Motion to adopt the Resolution passes
4. Presentation of 2020 Francis H. Raymond Award to [Tom Jopson](#)
5. [Presentation](#): Evaluation of Forest Road Scenarios Using Field Measurements and the Distributive Hydrology Soil Vegetation Model: Dr. Chris Surfleet, Professor of Hydrology, Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo



Forest Practice—BOF cont.

6. Licensing
 - A. [RPF Statistics](#)
 - B. Update on Licensing Program
 - i. The increased fee structure will take effect for FY 20-21. Funding for the program is now projected to be in the black, but the challenge is now to grow the registry.
 - ii. 46 applicants sat for the RPF exam in October, 1 CRM; employing 3 graders currently
 - C. [Call for Nominations](#) to the Professional Foresters Examination Committee (PFEC)
 - i. There are two (2) seats that can be filled immediately in the following categories: 1) Industry member (RPF) 2) Government member (RPF)
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. Nominations must be received no later than January 3, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.
 - iv. Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation- Katie Harrell, Joint Institute Program Analyst
7. Board consideration of the [Joint Institute Recommendations to Expand Wood and Biomass Utilization in California](#).
 - A. Motion to adopt the recommendations to expand wood and biomass products innovation in California carries with editorial changes recommended by Board Staff
8. [Resolution 2020-3 for designation of a Zone of Infestation](#) for Invasive Shot Hole Borers and Board consideration of expansion of designated Zone of Infestation for Goldspotted Oak Borer
 - A. Motion to adopt the resolution carries
 - B. Motion to adopt the [Board Declaration of the GSOB ZOI Expansion](#) carries



Water/Wildlife/Botany

Mark Pugsley — Committee Chair

WATER QUALITY

North Coast: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast>

The Board last met on October 15th via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available but the agenda is. Agenda: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/10_2020/

The next Board meeting is scheduled for December 10 & 11th in Santa Rosa. the agenda is not yet available.

Central Valley: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/>

The Board last met on October 15 & 16th via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available but the agenda is. Agenda: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/2020/2010ag.pdf

The next meeting is scheduled for December 10 & 11th in Rancho Cordova; the agenda is not yet available.

Lahontan: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/>

The Board last met on November 19th via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available but the agenda is. Agenda: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/agenda/2020/nov/agenda2020nov_v2.pdf

No meeting is scheduled for December 2020; The 2021 schedule is not yet available.

Central Coast: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/>

The Board last met on October 22 & 23rd via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available but the agenda is. Agenda: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2020/oct_22/index.html

The next meeting is scheduled for December 10 and 11th via teleconference; the agenda: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2020/dec/index.html

A discussion of Wildfire Prevention and Recovery Activities Update will occur. Link to staff report: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2020/dec/item14_stfrpt.pdf

WILDLIFE

The Fish and Game Commission: <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2020/index.aspx>

The Fish and Game Commission (FGC) last met on October 14th via Teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available. Agendas: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=183146&inline>

The next Fish and Game Commission meeting is scheduled for December 9 & 10th via teleconference; the agenda: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=184710&inline>.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Gray Wolf (*Canis Lupus*) delisted under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) throughout the lower 48 States with the exception of the Mexican wolf (*C. l. baileyi*) subspecies found in New Mexico which is still



Water/Wildlife/Botany cont.

listed as Endangered. The Final Rule was published on November 3rd 2020 and the **delisting goes into effect January 4th 2021**. The Gray Wolf was first listed in 1966 under the precursor to the Endangered Species Act and listed as Endangered under the ESA in 1973. Delisting due to exceeding combined recovery goals for the Northern Rocky Mountains and Western Great Lakes populations. Current population in the lower 48 States is estimated to be over 6000.

Link to Federal Registry: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/11/03/2020-24171/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-removing-the-gray-wolf-canis-lupus-from-the-list-of>

The Gray Wolf is Still listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act.

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

The Board last met on November 3rd and 4th via teleconference. A draft problem statement for Botanical Resource Assessment in Timber Harvest Documents was released and a workshop is planned to discuss the document. See the Forest Practice article for more information.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 19th and 20th in Sacramento, an agenda is not yet available.

The CLFA Board of Directors wishes our members and their families a safe & wonderful holiday season!





Forestry Challenge Update

Diane Dealey Neill

Three of five Forestry Challenge sessions are in the bag, with the 2 final sessions happening this week and next. Already, 34 teams have participated, with all but 9 being judged by our panels. Those additional teams were participating as part of a classroom assignment and their presentations were judged by their teachers. The final two weeks are the largest, with an anticipated 51 total teams, all but 10 of which will be judged by our panels.

So, how is it working? Considering the fact that the students can't get out into the forest, the answer is, pretty well. Thanks to my staff, we have refined our processes with Google Classroom and Zoom and have not had any technical failures. The students also seem engaged and appreciative of our efforts, as can be seen in this [one-minute video](#) produced at Coalinga High School:



Thanks to so many of you, our volunteer needs are covered for this week, but we could use more help with Ask a Forester on December 9 and judging on December 12, both being conducted on Zoom. If you would like to volunteer, please [click here](#) to fill out the form.

Finally, we're having a virtual Awards Ceremony on Saturday, December 19 at 11 a.m. to announce the winning teams as well as to give out some special awards. If you'd like the Zoom link, send me an email at diane-dealeyneill@gmail.com.



CLFA Brown Bag Field Days



Coast Field Day Brown Bag

North Field Day Brown Bag





2020 CLFA BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

BOARD MEETINGS

- ◆ 2020 December—Dark

2021

- ◆ January 23, 2021—9:00 am—2:00 pm— TBD
- ◆ February 23, 2021—6:00 pm—8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ March 4, 2021—11:00 am—4:00 pm—Gaia, Anderson
- ◆ April 20, 2021—6:00 pm—8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ May 21, 2021—6:00 pm—CLFA Audit
- ◆ May 22, 2021—9:00 am—2:00 pm—Granzellas, Williams, CA

CLFA WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES

2021

- ◆ March 5 & 6, 2021—Spring Workshop, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson, CA—Pending regarding in-person conference—maybe virtual.
- ◆ March 29—April 2, 2021—**Class is full**
- ◆ April 14 & 15, 2021—Archaeology Refreshers, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson, CA
- ◆ October 4-8, 2021—5-day Initial Archaeology, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson, CA—*please register ASAP—currently there are only 27 spots remaining*
- ◆ November 10 & 11, 2021—Archaeology Refreshers, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson, CA

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