



**CALIFORNIA
LICENSED
FORESTERS
ASSOCIATION**

*The Voice of
California's
Licensed
Foresters*

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California Licensed Foresters Association

July 2021 - Newsletter

President's Message Jason Wells, CLFA President

One of the most commonly shared anecdotes that I seem to have with my forester colleagues is the reaction of our friends and family when they first learned that we were pursuing a career in forestry; invariably the common response is "So you want to be a park ranger?". I did not grow up in a timber family. Personally, I didn't know what a forester was until I had already taken multiple forestry courses in college. It was a stroke of dumb luck that I have ended up in the position I find myself today, in a career I love, doing what I can to improve the health of California's forests. Growing up I obviously knew that wood was an important resource, and I knew that there were loggers, and truck drivers, and mills, but there were a tremendous number of things I had no idea that I didn't know, not the least of which was "how do you get square boards out of a round tree?".

In high school I remember learning about deforestation in the Amazon, and illegal logging operations converting Malaysian forests for palm plantations. I remember discussing paper production, the chemicals associated with its manufacturing, and how basic choices at the grocery store could have major environmental implications; the implication being to ditch paper and plastic, and instead bring a bag. However, I don't remember talking about proper forest management, and how that differs from images of the receding Amazon. I don't remember talking about societies real need for forest products and the need to conserve environmental systems through monitoring and action. I don't remember talking about land use history in California, or how the ecology in our state was shaped by Native stewardship (fire) over millennia. Most importantly we didn't learn anything about the science behind sustainable resource management, or the people who actually manage our resources.

This organization has a long history of varied attempts to educate the public about the art and science of forestry. The 30 second forester series, a public service announcement that appeared on Northern California radio stations some years ago, was more recently turned into [60 Second Forester](#) videos. The board had intended to broadcast these videos on local television stations, but the 2018 Camp Fire disrupted the effort, and due to the volunteer nature of the board, it seems it slipped through the cracks. CLFA has conducted most of our public outreach through scholarships directed at students who are already enrolling higher education at accredited forestry schools, and through partnership at a regional level with The Forestry Challenge program. The fact is that we are limited as a volunteer organization in what we can do to promote the profession, and the responsible and ethical stewardship of California's forests; we need partners, like the Forestry Challenge, or the student-lead mentorship pilot program that UCB put on this year, who have dedicated time to recruiting and retaining future foresters.

At the same time, the need to conduct outreach to the public at large about responsible forest management has never been greater than this moment. We simultaneously have a situation where the State is authorizing hundreds of millions of dollars to go towards pre-fire management, with overwhelming support of the legislature and the public in general, and we have highly public protests occurring at Jackson Demonstration State Forest due to public ignorance regarding the intent of these forests; and who could blame them? We need to do a better job informing the public about sound forest management; the most they hear about is tropical deforestation and Smokey Bear. How would the public know the purpose of JDSF includes providing scientific data to inform the same pre-fire management strategies that the public overwhelmingly supports if we don't spend time showing them! What better venue to test the efficacy of mechanical and prescribed fire treatments than a publicly accessible Demonstration Forest? How might the public react if they saw videos of these treatments taking place over years next to control treatments? Some of the funding going towards pre-fire management needs to go to public outreach and education to make this a reality.

The conversation about sustainable forest management needs to happen outside the 30-day public comment period, and it needs to continue as our understanding of best management practices change throughout the years. As more organizations begin to enter the sphere of forest management (and fuels management) it's my hope that this organization can find ways to partner with those who are working in this field; to provide guidance and assistance from an authoritative and professional position, and to showcase forest management in California to a larger public audience. If we can get the message out, we might just be able to solve our professional recruitment problem at the same time as our public relations problem.



Forest Practice—BOF

Katherine Benedict—Regulatory Rep to CLFA

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection met on June 8-9, 2021 via webinar. The next Board meeting is currently scheduled for July 13-15, 2021 and will be held via webinar. The agenda for the July meeting has not yet been published, however the agenda for the June 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 June Board of Forestry Meeting:

Joint Committee Meeting Summary

Management Committee

- The [staff report](#) on the definition of “Crop of Trees” as it pertains to Timberland conversion and defensible space discussed possible approaches to addressing the issue. Approach #2, which makes the 30’ around a structure not considered Timberland, seems to be the most likely approach. Board staff will continue to look at the different approaches and will likely bring a rule plead forward for consideration next month.
- The [Meadows and Cutover Land Rule Plead](#) eliminates references to ‘cutover land’ as it is not a defined term in 895.1 and changes ‘Meadows and Other Wet Areas’ to ‘Meadows and Wet Areas’ as it is defined.

Forest Practice Committee

- The [DRAFT Board Guidance Memorandum](#) was changed to provide response to comment letters (letters received from [Cal Fire, CDFW \(attachments\)](#), [CNPS](#), and Fruit Growers).
 - CDFW had concerns over the level of reliance on professional judgement of RPF, wanted more specificity and detail, and wanted a notification system for submittal of survey results.
 - Cal Fire talked about amendments versus adding information to a plan and said they plan to release a guidance memo soon about the differences of these.
 - The Board will continue to incorporate comments and make some improvements. The Committee chair wants this to be more like a recipe book (i.e. if a new forester picked this up, would they know generally what to do?). A new draft will be brought forward next month.
- The [Emergency Rulemaking](#) and [Notice of Proposed Action](#) for Registered Professional Forester Responsibility in association with Emergency Notices was presented.
 - The changes about RPF responsibility presented last month were not changed.
 - The slash requirements in Emergency Notices for Fuels Hazard Reduction were changed to require slash be treated within 1 year from the date the Notice is accepted by Cal Fire.
 - The Board will make changes for next month’s meeting so it can do into effect in August.
 -
- The [Substantially Damaged Southern Subdistrict of the Coast Forest District](#) rule plead was brought forward for consideration in next year’s rule making agenda; the proposed change is to include “and those described in 14 CCR 1080 et seq.” to 913.8, which references substantially damaged timberlands.

Full Board Meeting

- Executive Session – No reportable actions taken.
- Consent Calendar Items – Motion confirmed unanimously to approve all consent calendar items, including the PFEC appointment of Members [Yana Valachovic](#) and [Daniele Lindler](#).
- Monthly Board Reports
- Chairman’s Report (Chair Gilles)
- CAL FIRE [Director’s Report](#) (Chief Thom Porter):
 - Fire protection: biggest concern for this year’s fire suppression efforts is hand crews; of the 152 funded hand crews, only 55 were available at the time of this meeting. The Department will employ a 100% suppression approach for all fires this year.
 - The Sacramento headquarters is moving building locations in August and will be collocating with the State Fire Marshall for the first time.



Forest Practice—BOF cont.

- Executive Officer Report (Matt Diaz, Executive Office of BOF):
 - [Legislative Update](#)
 - The Board [letter](#) regarding CNDDDB accessibility was approved for delivery to CDFW.
 - On July 6th the State Water Board will be presenting on a new General Order for work done through the Cal VTP; Board staff will attend this presentation.
 - Report of the Regulations Program Manager: There was some initial confusion about the regulatory process for submitting both the Conversion ROW Exemption Amendments and the Conversion and ROW De Minimis Exemption Amendments; hoping to publish both of the NOPAs in the near future.
 - Matt Diaz announced he is leaving the Board; this is his last BOF meeting.
- Report of the Standing Committees
 - Resource Protections Committee – Darcy Wheelers, Committee Chair: No actionable items this month. Committee discussed the Land Use Planning Program update, the PRC 4290.5 Fire Safety Survey/Subdivision Review Unit update, and the Safety Element Reviews from the Counties of [Mendocino](#) and [Mono](#) and City of [San Clemente](#).
- Report of Board’s Advisory Committees
 - Range Management Advisory Committee – Kristina Wolf: A [letter](#) expressing concerns of Tahoe NF hiring individuals without specialized range ecology training for range management specialist positions was presented.
 - Effectiveness Monitoring Committee – Sue Husari: Approved the EMC [Completed Research Assessment](#) guidelines.
- Special Board Hearings/Reports –
 - The Board approved the final Draft [Research Report](#), which incorporated changes from [public comments](#).
 - Presentation: Final Draft of the [Report on Exempt Timber Harvesting for the Reduction of Fire Hazard Within 150 Feet of Structures](#) (Drew Coe and Will Olsen):
 - Over 500 1038(c)’s submitted in 2019 and nearly 400 in 2021, vast majority reported less than 8 mbf removed and less than 1 acre in size.
 - 36 of the sampled exemptions shared their costs: 27 of these reported financial loss from operations, averaging \$11,500; 2 reported a profit; 7 broke even.
 - Slash treatment met and exceeded expectations on nearly all Notices; 84% eliminated vertical fuel continuity; just over 50% met the requirements for defensible space per TRA #4 within 30’ of structures.
 - Report recommends Cal Fire develops guidance on using this exemption to its intent with a focus on the 30’ zone around structures.
 - This report will likely be approved during the July meeting.
- Presentation: Introduction of the [California Forest Pest Conditions 2020 report](#) (Tom Smith, Cal Fire Senior Plant Pathologist)
 - 2019/2020 water year was the 13th driest on record; February 2020 was the driest ever recorded for the month.
 - Bark and engraver beetle activity remained low in 2020; 2021 is showing increased activity.
 - Balsam Woolly Adelgid is causing mortality of grand fir in Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties.
 - Mediterranean Oak Borer present in Napa, Lake, and Sonoma Counties, with a new infestation found in Citrus Heights (Sacramento County); CDFA has designated it as invasive but too extensive to control.
 - Sudden Oak Death: the European strain was found in Del Norte County in 2020.
 - Incense Cedar Canker: a species of *Seiridium* was found in branches and stem cankers; fungus is closely related to the cypress canker.
 - Maple leaf scorch: possibly caused by a xylem bacterium, may be the same as one that impacts grapes; made worse by drought.
 - Invasives: new invasives of concern in 2020 include Spotted knapweed, stinkwort, and North African wire grass. A new biotic control for yellow star thistle may become available soon.



Legislation

Joe Starr—Committee Chair

Key Upcoming Dates

- July 1st Deadline for Governor to Sign Budget
- July 14th Deadline to Pass Bills from Policy Committees in Second House
- July 16th – August 16th Summer Legislative Recess

Recent Hearings

- June 22nd - **SB 332 (Dodd)** in Assembly Judiciary Committee – **Support**
- June 23rd – **SB 12 (McGuire)** in Assembly Local Government – Watch
- June 29th – **AB 431 (Patterson)** and **AB 267 (Valladeras)** in Senate Natural Resources & Water – **Support**
- June 29th – **AB 642 (Friedman)** Senate Natural Resources & Water – Watch
- June 29th - **SB 63 (Stern)** Assembly Natural Resources & Water – Watch

Visit the following link to search bills: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>

Legislature Passes Budget Framework, Final Deal with Governor Still in the Works

In the final budget signed late last month, Governor Newsom and Democratic legislative leaders pushed hundreds of millions of dollars of planned wildfire prevention spending into the future. Newsom had called for over \$700 million for wildfire prevention and resilience in his revised budget in May. The Legislature increased that amount to \$1 billion in its budget bill. But the final budget deal includes less than half of that, \$458 million over the next year, due to concerns that state agencies including CAL FIRE would not be able to spend the allocated money within the next fiscal year. This decision comes on the heels of allegations that the Governor's office overstated the amount of wildfire prevention work that had been completed since taking office. The Governor's office still insists, correctly, that the amount of funding proposed for wildfire prevention still represents a significant increase from past spending.

Legislature Reopens Capitol as State Fully Reopens Economy

After a year-long closure of the State Capitol due to COVID-19 with limited opportunities for public engagement where most work has been conducted remotely, the Legislature reopened the Capitol this week under new safety protocols that will initially allow 500 people from the public to enter the Capitol each day. The Legislature has discussed the possibility of allowing 1,000 people from the public to enter the Capitola at a future date. The lobbying community generally welcomed the news since it could provide a scaled down version of physical pre-pandemic lobbying which will allow for mor direct participation in meetings and hearings while practicing social distancing. The Capitol reopening coincides with Governor Newsom's effort to reopen the state's economy on June 15th as the entire business community and various public agencies will be operating under new guidelines that will essentially drop mask rules for fully vaccinated individuals in most settings. Details about the Capitol reopening are in the attached memos.

Energy Officials Warn of Potential Energy Shortfall due to Oncoming Heatwave

An abnormally strong ridge of heat is forecast to bring temperatures as high as 115 degrees to the California interior that could last until the weekend. Because of the extreme heat and nighttime lows expected to cool off only between 78 and 83 degrees, the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) sent out a warning this week that the state's electric grid will be straining to meet evening demand. CAISO's own projections currently show electricity demand exceeding power supplies that are guaranteed under the state's Resource Adequacy (RA) requirements for several days this week.



Water/Wildlife/Botany

Mark Pugsley — Committee Chair

The following species have recently undergone changes in list status. See Wildlife section below for more information.

California Endangered Species Act:

- Northern California Summer Steelhead(*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) - Endangered
- Upper Klamath-Trinity River spring Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) -Threatened
- Clara Hunt's milkvetch (*Astragalus claranus*) - Endangered

Federal Endangered Species Act:

- Suckley's Bumble Bee(*Bombus suckleyi*)- Under Review

WATER QUALITY

State Water Resource Control Board

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 April 15th via teleconference. No forestry action items on agenda. [Agenda](#).

Region 2- San Francisco Bay

The Board last met on June 9th 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 July 14th 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 July 14th 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 Plumas County. “[The Beckwourth Pack](#) was confirmed in May 2021 when three wolves were photographed by trail camera at a confirmed wolf depredation site in southern Plumas County. Tracks of two wolves had been observed in the same general area in February 2021. Field efforts are ongoing, and it is not yet known whether the pack is reproductive. Preliminary DNA analysis indicates one wolf is LAS12F (from the Lassen Pack’s 2019 litter). The origins of the other two wolves remain uncertain.” (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.=

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

[Environmental groups plan lawsuit over fisher protections](#)(Times-Standard.com)

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries to Propose Regulatory Revisions to Endangered Species Act](#)- “The set of proposed actions follows [Executive Order 13990](#), which directed all federal agencies to review and address agency actions during the last four years that conflict with Biden-Harris administration objectives, such as addressing climate change.” (USFWS)

[USFWS releases Birds of Conservation Concern 2021 report](#)



Water/Wildlife/Botany cont.

Change in list status:

[Suckley's Bumble Bee](#) (*Bombus suckleyi*)- Listing status is under review

Background: The Service received a [petition](#) April 23,2020 to list the species under the Federal Endangered Species Act. The petition was deemed to present substantial scientific or commercial evidence that listing may be warranted. The Service's [90-day Finding](#) listed the following factors; livestock grazing and habitat loss from fire management, disease or loss of host and potential host transmission, pesticide use for bark beetle management, agricultural intensification, effects of climate change, and loss of genetic diversity. The petition also presented substantial information that showed that existing regulatory mechanisms may be inadequate to protect the species. A 12-month petition finding will be issued at a later date which will address whether or not listing is appropriate. **Historic range of the Suckley's Bumble Bee includes the Klamath Mountain Region of California.**

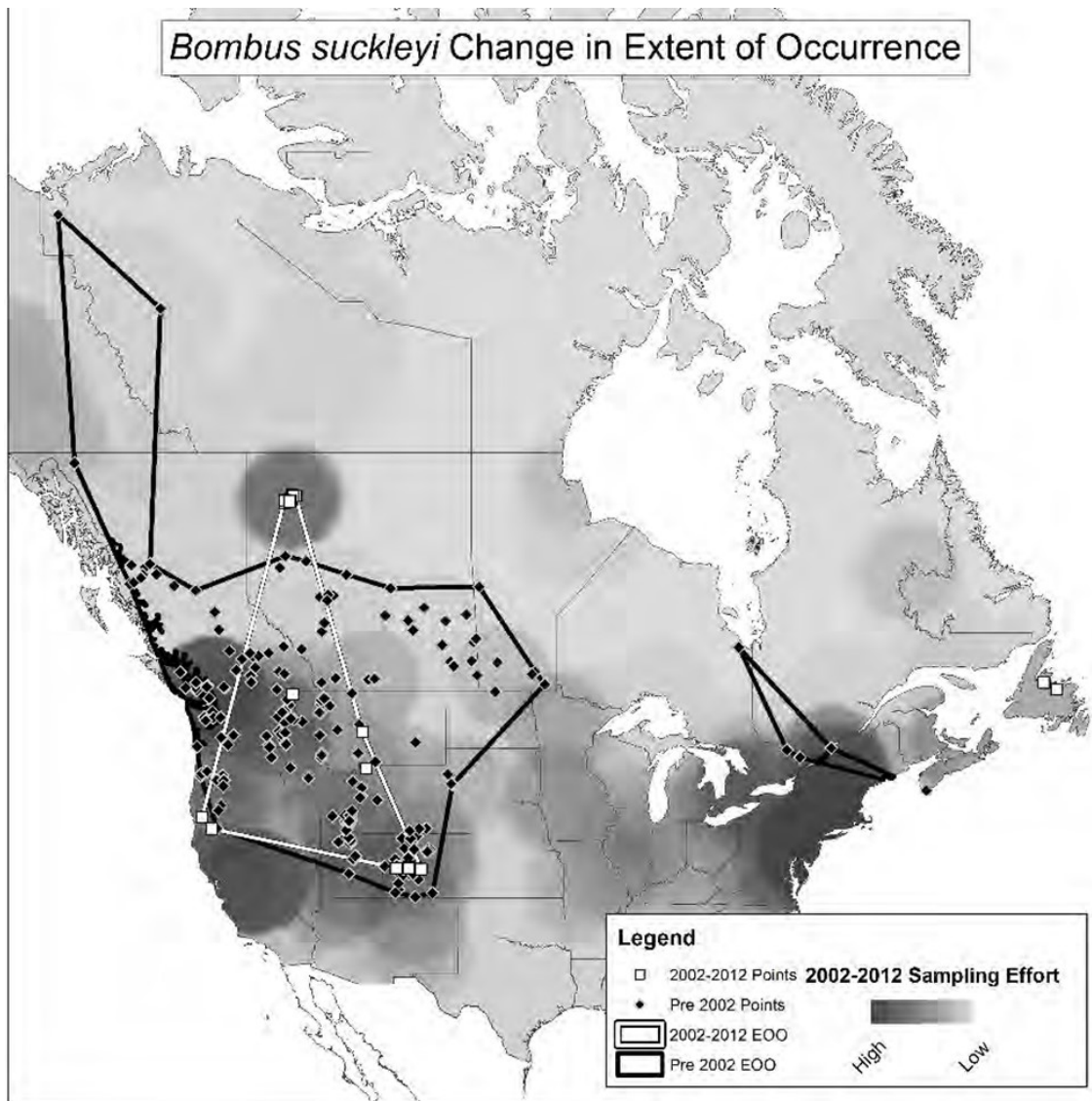


Figure 8: Current and historical range map for the Suckley cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus suckleyi*). (Source: A [PETITION TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION TO LIST The Crotch bumble bee \(*Bombus crotchii*\), Franklin's bumble bee \(*Bombus franklini*\), Suckley cuckoo bumble bee \(*Bombus suckleyi*\), and western bumble bee \(*Bombus occidentalis occidentalis*\) as Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act.](#) The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation et al. , 2018)



Licensing

Robert Little, CLFA Licensing Chair, representing committee members Charll Stoneman

RPF Exams. Grading for the spring 2021 RPF Exam is expected to be completed in June. The Fall Exam is Scheduled for October 9th, the deadline to sign up is August 6th 2021.

The Board is expected to announce the results of the spring RPF exam during the July meeting.

Examining Committee Nominations

During the June meeting, the BOF approved the following additions to the Examining Committee:

- Government representative. Yana Valachovic.
- Industry representative. Danielle Lindler.



Announcements

RPF Community,

Cal Fire is seeking to hire an **Executive Officer for the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in Sacramento County**. A vacancy advertisement was posted to the CalCareers website on **6/29/2021**, with a Final Filing Date of **7/21/2021**.

The advertisement can be found at <https://jobs.ca.gov/> by searching for Job Control # **JC- 256093**, or Position Number **541-001-3485-001**, or by following the link listed below:

<https://www.calcareers.ca.gov/CalHrPublic/Jobs/JobPosting.aspx?JobControlId=256093>



Lake Tahoe Community College is currently seeking proposals for Forestry Education Program Curriculum Development Services.

The complete request for proposals can be viewed on the District website at www.ltcc.edu/purchasing.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Heather Cade-Bauer

Purchasing Technician
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Archaeology Classes 2021 & 2022

The October 4-8, 2021 5-day initial archaeology class is full with a very long waiting list of 20 people. These 20 people will automatically be registered into the spring 2022 class. If you have employees that will be needing to take this class, please contact, Kathleen at admin@clfa.org. I anticipate that by January 2022 this class will be full.



Forestry Challenge Update

Diane Dealey Neill

Pre-Registration: The end of June marks the end of our pre-registration period. At this time, we are proceeding on the assumption that the fall in-person events will happen as they did pre-COVID, but we are prepared to modify our format to accommodate schools that either can only have one-day field trips or cannot leave campus.

Here is a summary of the current pre-registration numbers:

Event	Dates	Schools	Students	Students in 2019
Shasta	9/29 to 10/2	24	126	89
Santa Cruz	10/13 to 10/16	22	118	85
El Dorado	10/27 to 10/30	22	122	112
San Bernardino	11/10 to 11/13	20	124	117
		88	490	403

Scholarship Program: We are pleased to be partnering with Redwood Empire and the Los Angeles Hardwood Lumberman's Club to offer two [scholarship sources](#), both anticipated to award multiple scholarships. Applications are due on August 1 and the winners will be announced by September 1. If you know of any college forestry students who participated in the Forestry Challenge in high school, please let them know.

New Tablets: Thanks to a Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration grant through the Burney Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group, we now have 35 new Samsung Galaxy tablets! These tablets will be used by the teams to record the data they collect during the focus topic fieldtrips on Thursday afternoons. Not only will the students get hands-on experience using electronics for data collection, but the data will also be much easier to assemble for their use that evening. We are now in the process of looking for an appropriate mobile app for basic cruising. If you have a suggestion, please email me at dianedealeyneill@gmail.com.



2021 CLFA BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- 6;

BOARD MEETINGS

2021

- ◆ July 20, 2021—6:00 pm to 8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ 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—Location TBD
- ◆ **December—Dark**

2022

- ◆ January 15, 2022—9:00 am to 2:00 pm—Location TBD
- ◆ 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, Location TBD

2022

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

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