



**CALIFORNIA
LICENSED
FORESTERS
ASSOCIATION**

*The Voice of
California's
Licensed
Foresters*

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California Licensed Foresters Association

June 2021 - Newsletter

President's Message Jason Wells, CLFA President

It's taken me a long time to understand what it means to be a forester. To be honest there are days where I still don't feel like I can fully explain it; the true sign of fully understanding something. The way things are today, sometimes I feel more like a lawyer than a forester, but I digress. At its core the profession is simple enough, we manage forests, but what that actually means has changed dramatically over the years as our understanding of these beautifully complex and important systems has grown. Society's needs and demands have grown as well.

In the days of Gifford Pinchot the concern was the growing nation, and its expanding appetite for natural resources; There was recognition that preserving national forests was key to securing a long-term supply of resources which would continue to support our expanding nation's interests. Another forester, Aldo Leopold, nearly half a century later wrote A Sand County Almanac. He lamented the loss of local species, and advocated a land ethic that focused on shifting from a purely consumptive relationship with the land, to one that conserved ecosystem functions while meeting society's need for natural resources. Today we still wrestle with these concepts, our understanding of what the land can give is changing.

The first foresters who came to California marveled at how much wasted space there was between the towering pines in the Sierra. Since that time, we've spent years figuring out how many trees we could fit on an acre, and we made rules to make sure we would never waste that space again. Maximum sustained production. I don't mean to say it wasn't well intentioned, I know folks who are trying to buy wood right now are all too aware of how important the supply of wood products is, and at the time we were basing decisions on the best available science and trying to meet the needs of a rapidly growing state. In the 1960s Harold Biswell was among the first researchers in California to recognize the adverse effects that this mindset was having on our forests, which ecologically were adapted to frequent fire. His initial assessment was not well received, and the business of maximizing volume through higher TPA continued as usual for many more decades.

It may be time to fully recognize that our concept of maximum in MSP could be an overestimate given our forests dependence on fire. The Board of Forestry's adoption of updated and reduced stocking standards for planting is a promising move in the right direction. Our industry has changed significantly in a relatively short time, due to our expanded understanding of natural sciences and adoption of rule packages to address this new understanding. I've heard guys who logged in the 80s talk about winter logging with mud up to the cab on their D8 and dirt fill crossings on Class IIs left to blow out in the winter. I point this out not to beat up on industry or the professionals who came before me, but more as a way to ground the conversation in a history I have never personally seen (aside from the clear evidence that still scars the ground) because foresters were able to grow in their professional capacity and we were able to adopt practices that balanced the needs of timber supply with ecosystem functions and values.

In my experience foresters are some of the most knowledgeable, creative, and dedicated professionals I have ever known. Modern logging operations in California are as clean as anywhere in the world, the forest practice rules are likely the most stringent, and the reason why it all still works is because of all of you reading this. Things have changed because professionals in our industry remain up to date on the science of forest management and open to modifying practices based on the best information we have; this organization has always played an important role in providing continuing education for our membership. The current science strongly points to the fact that fire plays an integral role in the health of our forests, and we will need to figure out how to balance the inclusion of regular fire and fuels management with forest regeneration, harvest potential, and other beneficial uses of forests.

As public opinion shifts on the role of managing forests, and the state begins to invest unprecedented amounts of funding toward forest and specifically fuels management, it's important to continue to advocate for the inclusion of licensed professional foresters as necessary project managers on projects occurring in our forest lands. RPFs fill an irreplaceable role providing technical assistance to landowners, designing treatment prescriptions and schedules to meet desired objectives, acting as business and contract administrators, operational overseers, forest policy experts, forest mensurationists, road engineers, the list goes on. It's partially

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Presidents Message cont.

this dizzying amount of potential responsibilities that make it difficult to describe what it is that we do to those outside of our field. Despite all the roles we already play, we must continue to grow as a profession so that we may be prepared to manage forests for society's current needs, which are quickly growing beyond traditional roles of harvest administration.

As I mentioned before, forests are complex, our understanding of these systems is constantly growing and they are far more than just standing fuel (or boards for that matter). There is going to be a lot of money going towards fuel reduction projects in the near future and I worry about the accountability of some of these projects when there are no specific operational guidelines that are required to be developed, and enforced, by licensed professionals with knowledge of forest operations and the potential adverse impacts they can have; not only the obvious impacts like sediment discharge, but the long term potential damages to forest growth and health. I believe that many of us have a lot to learn when it comes to managing forests for fuels, especially in non-traditional forestry settings like oak woodlands and the WUI, and much of this work will likely be done outside of the realm of Forest Practice Rules and THPs, and into the world of CEQA, MNDs, Categorical Exemptions, and the new Cal VTP. I also believe that we are still better prepared to manage this new directive than anyone else. We've made mistakes in the past, but are all the better prepared because of them, and this profession needs to be the recognized leader in the field that our license permits us to be.



Post-fire tree planting - Walbridge Fire, Healdsburg, CA.



Rx Fire, Dry Creek, Healdsburg, CA



Licensing

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

Professional Foresters Examining Committee Meeting (Open Session). The committee met remotely on May 20, 2021.

Report of the Executive Officer, Dan Stapleton.

- 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.
- Licensing renewal progress. This year's RPF license renewal progress is going well with several hundred renewals already received and only a handful of withdrawals.
- The BOF is moving! The Board of Forestry and all support staff will be moving to a different location. Exact location and other details will be forthcoming soon. The BOF will still be very close to the Resources Building continuing the same level of direct interaction with the Department.

Forest Management Task Force (FMTF)- Item 1.16 of the California Wild Fire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. Expand Lumber Certifiers as part of the effort to increase small scale forest product infrastructure.

- The topic was presented to PFEC By Lon Sibert a certified lumber grader from Georgia. The purpose of the initial discussion was to brainstorm the topic and develop recommendations. Discussion emphasis centered around the role of the RPF in becoming a "roaming" certified grader. The certification could be applied to other entities that may be suited to meet this need. Supporting part of this effort through state or federal grant funding programs was also discussed.
- As your CLFA representative, I offered the following considerations to the PFEC.
- Overall this should be a low or non-priority effort. Focusing on increasing certified lumber graders in California is somewhat like "putting the cart before the horse".
- The FMTF should focus on higher priority matters that are directly related to this believing the capacity for lumber certifiers would "scale appropriately" to fit demand on its own. These higher priorities include, statewide expansion and diversification of the wood manufacturing and products sector, and increasing commercial competition for raw sawlogs sourced from small timberland owners.
- Early discussion by the FMTF in this lumber grading expansion capacity concept should engage professional lumber grading organizations already established in CA. A short list includes ALSC- American Lumber Standards Committee and WWPA- Western Wood Products Association.
- An RPF acting as a "roaming- gypsy" certified lumber grader has the added responsibility of ensuring the logs / boards produced are sourced from an approved harvest document. Others receiving this training might not have the same "ethical standards" expected of the license, thus the validity of graded lumber products "legally sourced" may have added burdens of regulation to the Department.

Professional Foresters Registration Program Policies of the Board

Work on this policy document is complete. Members of the PFEC discussed and approved PFEC policy items 11 and 12. Once all edits and formatting have been completed, a final policy will be released.

Update from ad hoc committee on Forester in Training (FIT)

George Gentry discussed the Forester in Training concept with PFEC. The purpose of the initial presentation was to seek feedback and further ideas towards implementing a pilot program. The priority of this program is to increase the development of better, competent professionals and to serve as a "continuum of education" during an individual's "required experience" period. It is believed that establishing a professionally recognized, structured training pathway will reduce recent forestry graduates and others in the exam qualification phase from being lost to, and re-directed into closely related fields.

Examining Committee Nominations

The committee members reviewed and discussed applications to the PFEC committee. Action was made on this item and the following nominations were made.

- A motion was made and passed to nominate Government representative. Yana Valachovic.
- A motion made and passed to nominate industry representative. Danielle Lindler.

These nominees will be presented to the BOF for consideration and approval at the June 9th meeting. CLFA believes the qualifications of both candidates are well developed, and their backgrounds, current skill-sets, and experience levels meet our increasingly varied roles and represent examples of diverse growth in the profession of Forestry.



Forest Practice—BOF

Katherine Benedict—Regulatory Rep to CLFA

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection met on May 4-5, 2021 via webinar. The next Board meeting is currently scheduled for June 8-9, 2021 and will be held via webinar. The agenda for the June meeting has not yet been published, however the agenda for the May 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 May Board of Forestry Meeting:
Joint Committee Meeting Summary
Forest Practice Committee Business

- The DRAFT Board Guidance Memorandum was released. The effort of this document is to provide guidance and not to be used or seen as regulation; it provides much clarity while also deferring specificity to RPF's professional judgment. Comments on this topic are requested by **COB on May 26**.
- An Emergency Rulemaking for the Counties of Santa Cruz and San Mateo, following requests for emergency rulemaking by Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties, was presented; this rulemaking allow for timber operations and hauling to occur on weekends within these counties on Timberlands affected by the CZU Lightning Complex Fire of 2020, which were previously prohibited. The Board adopted the Emergency Rulemaking for Santa Cruz and San Mateo Weekend Emergency at the full Board meeting.
- The Southern Sub-district Broadcast Burning draft rule plead was only minorly changed from last month to address inconsistencies throughout the FPRs. An ISOR was prepared and presented. This rule plead was submitted for 45-Day Comment Period during the full Board meeting.
- The Emergency Rulemaking for Registered Professional Forester Responsibility in association with Emergency Notices was presented. The rule plead requires an RPF or supervised designee be present at operations "a sufficient frequency to know the progress of operations and advise the LTO and Timberland Owner, but not less than once during the life of the notice." (1052(f)). It will continue to be looked at by Board staff.

Management Committee Business

- The definition of "Crop of Trees" as it pertains to Timberland conversion was discussed; the Board will continue to develop ideas and vet possible issues with this topic.
- The Utility ROW Exemption and Less than 3 Acre Conversion Exemption changes were released under one rule plead as they are currently under the same section in the FPRs. An Initial Statement of Reason (ISOR) was also produced and released. The following changes were made to this rule plead since last month's meeting:
 - The Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemption: the 2-year extension option was changed from being allowed if "Good Cause is Shown" to simply being allowed by amendment.
 - The Utility Right of Way Conversion Exemption had two minor changes: (1) in 1114(f)(24) the phrase "deeded easement" was changed to "legally recorded easement" as there are many different types of easements, and (2) in 1114(g) "copy of landowner notification" was changed to "evidence of landowner notification" since notification is often through phone calls or in person.
 - Two rule pleads were brought forward to address two options under this exemption: one would make routine maintenance within the recorded easement of the ROW exempt from the FPRs (DRAFT Conversion and ROW DeMinimis Exemption Rule Text), while one does not (DRAFT Conversion and ROW Exemption Rule Text). Both still make the changes discussed in the Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemption and Utility ROW Exemption over the past few months.
 - These rule pleads were submitted for 45-Day Comment Period during the full Board meeting the following day. The Board will vote and determine which rule plead is finalized following the 45-Day Comment Period.

Resource Protection Committee Business

- Safety elements for Placer County and City of Moreno Valley were reviewed.
- The Fire Danger Operating Plan for the Riverside County Unit was presented.
- There was a discussion of their 2021 priorities. An update on forest pest conditions will be presented next month and added to priorities.



Forest Practice—BOF cont.

Full Board Meeting

- Executive Session – No reportable actions taken.
- Consent Calendar Items – Motion confirmed unanimously to approve all consent calendar items, including reappointing members of the Jackson Advisory Group.
- Monthly Board Reports
 - Chairman’s Report—Chair Gillis: Expressed concern about the drought and this fire season. Member Los Huertos’s term on the Board expired; of the 9 spots on the Board, 2 are vacant. Note: all Z’berg Nejedly decisions need 5 votes to move forward.
 - CAL FIRE Director’s Report – Chief Helge Eng
 - Bark beetle activity is increasing especially in the central and northern Sierra.
 - USFS FIA remeasurements set to begin this year; Cal Fire is helping to fund remeasurements occurring every 5 years, instead of every 10.
 - Cal Fire is going to continue to grow their capacity to grow seedlings at the Davis nursery.
 - Eng retires on May 17th. He has accepted a job as the new Director of the Division of Forestry for the state of Alaska.
 - Presentation: A Case Study of the Camp Fire – Fire Progression Timeline, Alex Maranghides, Wildland Urban Interface Group, National Institute Science and Technology. The presentation was very engaging and contained a lot of informative and interesting data about fire progression, causes of such fire progression, and lessons to be learned. The following are some of the topics presented on:
 - 19 burnovers documented on evacuation routes, of which 11 happened between 7:50-10:00am.
 - Primary drivers influencing the extent of damage and destruction: (1) fuel ignition potential, (2) density of vegetative and structural fuels, (3) wind and terrain, (4) size and extent of fire when it hits community (if the fire starts closer to town, it may actually be less damaging due to reduced ember flux exposure). The only one we can control is #2 density of vegetative and structural fuels.
 - Only two controls to reduce loss: reduce exposure (displace or remove fuels) or harden structure (fire resistant design, community design, ignition/fire spread resistant materials)
 - Recommendations: (1) need to understand burnovers to inform fuel setbacks, (2) develop technical guidance to quantify parcel level exposures, (3) quantify fire spread within parcels with focus on fire exposures, (4) quantify exposures from adjacent parcels, specifically from neighboring structures, and develop design guidance for structure separation distances.
 - Executive Officer Report—Matt Diaz, Executive Office of BOF
 - Legislative Update
 - Action on the DRAFT CDFW Letter regarding CNDDDB subscriptions was deferred.
 - \$2 million was designated to the Board for work with the Cal VTP; they are hoping to work with consultants to develop templates that work under Cal VTP.
 - The Minimum State Fire Safe Standards went into 45 Day Public Comment Period on April 23rd, which will close on June 22.
 - The Draft of the Report on Exempt Timber Harvesting for Reduction of Fire Hazard Within 150 Feet of Structures was published on April 7. A presentation on this draft report will occur next month. The finding was that most of these exemptions were not meeting the Defensible Space requirements following operations. The Board offered comments and recommendations that will be incorporated or addressed in the presentation next month.
- Special Board Hearings/Reports – Presentation: Introduction of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection DRAFT Research Report, Russ Henly, Cal Fire FRAP: This presentation was on a report produced to inform priority topics to be researched in the future per the requirements of PRC § 4789.6(a). Public comments on this report should be submitted by **COB on May 26th**.



Water/Wildlife/Botany

Mark Pugsley — Committee Chair

WATER QUALITY

Region 1-North Coast: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast>

The Board last met on April 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/02_2021/index.html

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17th via teleconference. The Agenda is not yet available.

Region 2- San Francisco Bay <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/>

The Board last met on May 13th 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/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agendas/2020/May/5-13-20.pdf

The next meeting is scheduled for June 10th via teleconference. No agenda is available at this time.

Region 3-Central Coast: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/>

The Board last met on April 14th 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/2021/apr/41421agd_final.pdf

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17th via teleconference; the agenda is not yet available

Region 5-Central Valley: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/>

The Board last met on April 22th via teleconference for the Strategic Planning Workshop. Minutes are not yet available, but the agenda is. Agenda: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/2021/strat_plan_ag.pdf

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17th via teleconference; the agenda is not yet available.

Region 6-Lahontan: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/>

The Board last met on May 13th 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: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/agenda/2021/may/item3.pdf

The next meeting is scheduled for June 16th Via teleconference; the agenda is not yet available.

Fish and Game Commission

The Board last met on May 11th via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available, but the agenda is. Agenda: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=191838&inline>

California Board of Forestry

The Board last met on May 4-5th via teleconference. A draft of the Board Guidance Memorandum for botanical scoping and survey procedures was released. See the Forest Practice Committee report for the document and more information. Minutes are not yet available, but the agenda is. Agenda: <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/business/meeting-agendas-and-annual-schedules/>



Legislation

Joe Starr—Committee Chair

May 2021

The dust is starting to settle with many bills placed on the sidelines as two-year bills and others facing quiet deaths in the respective Senate and Assembly so-called “suspense files” where they needed to pass the fiscal committees today to remain alive. There are still about 1,000 active bills but that could change given a recent agreement between the Senate and Assembly leaders where they will allow legislators to only move 12 bills each to the opposite house. The Legislature now approaches its halfway point where bills must pass their house of origin by June 4th to remain alive

The governor and legislative leaders are also starting to negotiate the 2021-22 budget to meet the mandatory June 15th deadline. Governor Newsom released a \$267 billion May Revise budget last week and is proposing to fund a variety of new programs with an unanticipated \$76 billion budget surplus to address economic development, housing, homelessness, education, overdue utility bills, tax rebates, and clean energy investments. And with ongoing wildfire threats, increasing drought conditions, a potential summer energy reliability crisis, those are all issues that could come front and center as the Governor faces a recall that will take place in the Fall. As such, there will be a concerted effort to provide significant funding for areas to help his standing that are important to voters. Below is a list of some of the key bills CLFA has been actively tracking that were alive, at least until today’s action where they held two bills in the fiscal committee.

AB 267	Val-ladares	Deletes the sunset date for the CEQA exemptions for prescribed fire, thinning or fuel reduction projects that have been reviewed under NEPA and undertaken on federal lands.	In Senate	Support
AB 322	Salas	Requires the CEC to consider, in the state’s investment planning process for EPIC funding, bioenergy projects for biomass conversion.	In Senate	Support
AB 431	Patterson	Extends the sunset for the 150-300 defensible space exemption until January 1, 2026.	In Senate	Support
AB 792	Flora	Requires prescribed fires initiated at CalFIRE’s request, with the consent of the landowner, to be CalFIRES responsibility regardless of whether you are a nonprofit, public agency or private landowner.	Held in Assembly Fiscal Committee DEAD	Support
AB 926	Mathis	Adds roadside vegetation management and projects to the eligible list of activities for a local assistance grant program.	Held in Assembly Fiscal Committee DEAD	Support
SB 332	Dodd	Provides that a certified burn boss and a private landowner are not liable fire suppression costs as a result of prescribed burn unless it was conducted in a grossly negligent manner.	Senate Floor	Support
SB 709	Dahle	Authorizes up to two 2-year extensions for a timber harvest plan approved between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2015, if specified conditions are met.	In Assembly	Support
SB 45	Portantino	Enacts a \$5.5 billion Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection bond Act of 2022 to finance projects for wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparedness and flood protection.	Senate Floor	Watch
SB 12	McGuire	Requires cities or counties that contain very high fire risk areas to amend their land use element and prohibits a city or county with a very high fire risk area from entering into a development agreement without meeting specified fire risk standards.	Senate Floor	Concerns



Forestry Challenge Update

Diane Dealey Neill

Pre-Registration Update

The pre-registration period for the four Forestry Challenge events in the fall of 2021 will close on June 30. Nearly all of the schools that were signed up in 2020 have signed up again and we have many new schools as well, shown in parenthesis. Below is a summary of the estimated pre-registration numbers for each event, which we expect to settle out when the events happen.

Event	Dates	Schools	Students	Students in 2019
Shasta	9/29 to 10/2	18 (5 new)	96 to 150	89
Santa Cruz	10/13 to 10/16	19 (7 new)	99 to 129	85
El Dorado	10/27 to 10/30	21 (3 new)	117 to 174	112
San Bernardino	11/10 to 11/13	19 (6 new)	121 to 175	117

If you know any high school teachers who might be interested in participating, please pass this information along to them. Teachers can now complete [pre-registration](#) for any fall event in less than 5 minutes with our easy online form. Schools can attend any event that is best for location, school schedule, and student interest.

Mentor Forester Program

In past (normal) years, many schools request a forester to make one or two visits to campus and teach some of the basic skills needed for the event. We fully intend to match schools with foresters as available but for urban areas that do not have many foresters, we are considering pairing up those schools with a virtual forester who can work with the students via video conferencing. We'll be asking for volunteers for this effort in August. Please consider the option of helping students from the convenience of your area.



2021 CLFA BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- 6;

BOARD MEETINGS

2021

- ◆ June 19, 2021—9:00 am to 2:00 pm—Granzellas, Williams
- ◆ 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—9:00 am to 2:00 pm—Shaver Lake, location TBD
- ◆ 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

- ◆ **October 4-8, 2021—5-day Initial Archaeology—Class is full - Waiting list is available only**
- ◆ November 10 & 11, 2021—Archaeology Refreshers, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson, CA
- ◆ November 20, 2021—Fall Conference, Location TBD

2022

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

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