



CALIFORNIA
LICENSED
FORESTERS
ASSOCIATION

*The Voice of
California's
Licensed
Foresters*

Inside this issue:

Presidents Message
Forest Practice
Legislation
Water & Wildlife
Licensing
Legislation
Forestry Challenge
Calendar 2020

Attachments:

◆ ARC Refreshers

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California Licensed Foresters Association

March 2020 - Newsletter

President's Message Chris Dow, CLFA President

“Engaging and Good Communication”

As most of our members have already heard or seen, CALFIRE recently released the Cultural Resources and Significance Determinations Memo. If you have not, get in touch with us and we will send a copy to share around. I recently had the pleasure of covering this topic, along with the memo, with my local Jackson Breakfast Group. This group is a mix of consultant and industry foresters, and even includes a professional archaeologist. The group was very eager to learn about the changes to the Archaeology program, and discuss the contents of the new memo from CALFIRE. To make a long story short, last summer, the Archaeology program reached out to CLFA and informed us that they would have to cancel the Initial Archaeology Course for Fall 2019. CLFA immediately stood up to support the program and wrote a letter to the Board of Forestry to voice our support and concerns for the program. The Board, and CALFIRE specifically, immediately began to take action. CLFA was able to conduct meetings with CALFIRE, and find solutions that would support the program, as well as guarantee the courses for the long term. The Spring and Fall Initial Courses are already filled with a waiting list for 2020, and we expect this trend to continue. The importance of this training program to forestry professionals of all types, as we work to meet the Governor's Order to “increase pace and scale,” cannot be overstated.

In addition, working further with Helge Eng of CALFIRE, CLFA was able to negotiate clarification regarding Archaeology protections and definitions. As foresters, we locate and record an enormous number of archaeology sites, pre-historic and historic. We promote the protection of these sites, and record the pieces of history that make our forests so interesting. I know that when I am in the field and discover a new pre-historic site, I am beyond excited, and historic sites that tie together the uses of our forestlands are equally as exciting. However, as time has gone on, we are starting to reach the age requirement for more recent activity to be considered as historical in context. Many of these things can be tied to a historic place, person or event, but many are also just components of the activities that continue to occur on the landscape. Our culvert pipes for example, are now being sized to the 100 year flood flow size as guided by CALFIRE, and this means old pipes are being replaced en masse. The recent memo clarifies that these types of items in the forest landscape may meet the definition of being historic in age, but not necessarily a historic archaeology feature. The clarification by CALFIRE was much needed, as we are all pushing forward trying to increase pace and scale. In addition, clarification was given on the Forest Practice Rules and the ability for those that are currently trained in archaeological surveys to determine significance of certain sites. This will aid all of those in forestry, from industry and harvest plans, to consultants working with CCI grants for vegetation management.

At this time, I would like to thank all of those who were involved in getting this done. George “YG” Gentry of CFA summed it up best “The Board deserves our profession's thanks for the hard work of engaging and maintaining good communication.” It is this kind of accomplishment that demonstrates your Board working for the profession. Without the support of our membership, the Board would not have been able to accomplish this. So, to all members, and to the Board, thank you for your support and hard work.



Forest Practice—BOF

Andrea Eggleton—Regulatory Rep to CLFA

February was a dark month for the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. The next board meeting is currently scheduled for March 3-4 in Sacramento. Agendas for both the January and March meetings are available at:

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

The 2020 Forest Practice Rules are now available online on the CAL FIRE website at https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/9478/2020-forest-practice-rules-and-act_final_ada.pdf

Summary of revised rule packages that are now in effect in the 2020 FPRs:

- Stocking and Silvicultural Amendments (including revisions to point count minimums, commercial thinning standards, and a provision allowing RPFs to propose an alternative stocking standard for any regeneration method, intermediate treatment or special prescription)
- NTMP Amendments
- Permanent Post-Fire Recovery Exemption

Additionally, copies of the Forest Practice Rules back to 1996 are now available on the CAL FIRE website at <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/regulations/bills-statutes-rules-and-annual-california-forest-practice-rules/>

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

FULL BOARD MEETING -January 2020 (no meeting in February)

20 applicants successfully passed the RPF exam! Overall pass rate was 43% on the October 2019 test.

CAL FIRE reports that the Governor's budget includes 650-700 new firefighter positions being added to the Department over the next 5 years.

The USFS reported that through Stewardship Agreements, \$75 million from CCI funds is going to federal lands in CA. In 2019, the USFS cut 375 MMBF and treated 217,000 ac with fuels reduction projects; they are projecting to cut 40 MMBF in 2020. Reforestation has not been a success, with only 7,035 ac planted in 2019 out of a total 257,000 acres in need.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Re-assessment of existing "Group A" and "Group B" commercial species (14 CCR 895.1)

- Monterey Pine and Eucalyptus issues were brought up to the Board during the July 2019 BOF meeting in San Luis Obispo. A workshop on the issue was held on February 19, 2020. A problem statement will be brought to the Board at the March meeting for continued consideration.
- Discussion also touched on black oak and giant sequoia.
- Limited Timber Operators License and Timber Operator Education (14 CCR 1022.1 and 1024)
- The Board continues to pursue revisions to these code sections in order to:
- Restrict LTO Class B and C licensees from certain operations such as road construction and site prep.
- Require that applicants to all license categories attend the 2-day LTO education course which is currently only required for Class A applicants

Potential Revision of Basal Area Stocking Standards

- Calforests, CLFA, Forest Landowners of CA, and numerous industry and consulting RPFs who primarily practice unevenaged management are engaged in a work group to provide a problem statement and recommendations to the BOF. This is expected to be brought back to the Committee in April.

FOREST PRACTICE COMMITTEE MEETING

- Review of 2020 Committee Priorities
 - CDFW is requesting a botanical review process and standards in THPs. The Committee indicated that they need CDFW to bring them a concrete problem statement. CLFA will continue to watch and provide comment on this issue when appropriate.



Forest Practice—BOF cont.

Steep-Slope Harvesting – 14 CCR 914.2 and 914.3 et seq.

The Board continues to consider revisions to the FPR to clarify limitations on the use of ground-based equipment in cable and tractor yarding areas to address current logging technology and techniques including steep-slope tethered logging, tethered falling and bunching under cable systems, and shovel logging.

This item will be developed over the next few months and is expected to result in a rule package to be included in the 2021 Forest Practice Rules.

Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction – 14 CCR 1052.4

The Board has extended the Emergency Rules for another 6 months, making them available for use into August 2020. The rule text is available within the 2020 Forest Practice Rules.

The Board continues to work to address issues that were tabled during the previous emergency rulemaking effort and work towards permanent revisions to this rule section. CLFA continues to be a key stakeholder in committee discussions and regulatory workshops with the goal of passing a permanent rule package that provides an effective regulatory tool for facilitating the creation of fuelbreaks in strategic locations.

Legislation

Jason Wells—Committee Chair

February 21st was the last day for bills to be introduced this legislative year. CLFA's Government Affairs Specialist, Brian White, has identified 85 bills for the Legislative Committee to review. The Committee now has the task of identifying which bills to support, oppose, watch or ignore, and which bills we will need to provide comment on. Once the Committee has decided which bills to track, CLFA will provide a list of the most critical bills to watch throughout the upcoming months.

One bill of note that CLFA will surely be tracking in the coming months is SB 975 (Dahle) which aims to provide an exemption for RPFs, LTOs, Geologists, Land Surveyors, and Engineers who work on forested landscapes from the controversial AB5/Dynamex decision that was made last year. As you may recall, AB5 was the "Gig Economy" bill, which provided restrictions over who could qualify as an independent contractor. That bill was largely opposed by CLFA and other groups involved in the Forestry sector due to conflicts foreseen with contract trucking, logging, and work performed by consulting foresters.

Governor Newsome released a proposed budget to address climate change. One of the key pieces of this budget is a proposal for the November 2020 ballot to authorize a nearly \$5 billion general obligation bond program with nearly 80% of those funds going to addressing near term risks such as wildfire, droughts, and floods. It is possible that through this mechanism CLFA could advocate for funds to be earmarked towards the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP), but given that this funding isn't permanent and it has yet to be approved by the voters, CLFA may choose to focus on direct advocacy to the legislature to develop a bill that would authorize permanent funds for the program. The course of action has yet to be decided, if you have opinions or would like to help advocate for the CFIP program, please let the board know.



Water & Wildlife

Gwyndolyn Ozard — Committee Chair

WATER QUALITY

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

The Board last met on February 6-7 in Santa Rosa. Minutes are not yet available but the agenda is. Agenda: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/02_2020/index.html

Action Item of Note: 4. Public Hearing to consider adoption of Proposed Order No. R1-2020-0001, Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Green Diamond Resource Company's Forest Management Activities Conducted Within the Upper Elk River Watershed Humboldt County (Jim Burke)

The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 16-17; the agenda is not yet available:

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

The Board last met on February 20-21 in Rancho Cordova; no forestry items were on the agenda. Agenda: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/2020/2002ag.pdf

The next meeting is scheduled for April 16-17 in Bakersfield; the agenda is not yet available.

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

The Board last met on November 20-21 in Barstow; no forestry items were on the agenda. Agenda: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/agenda/2019/nov/final_november_agenda_announcement.pdf

The next non-closed session meeting is scheduled for March 11-12 in Barstow; the agenda is available: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/agenda/2020/agenda2020mar_english.pdf

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

The Board last met on January 30-31 in San Luis Obispo. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Agenda: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2020/01_jan/index.html

The next meeting is scheduled for March 5-6 in Watsonville; the agenda is available: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2020/03_mar/index.html

WILDLIFE

The US Fish and Wildlife Service:

The USFWS released their Revised NSO No Take Guidance Document (Attachments A and B) in mid February. https://www.fws.gov/arcata/es/birds/NSO/documents/2019-1101_NSO-TakeAvoidanceAnalysis_Att_A-B.pdf

The Fish and Game Commission: <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2019/index.aspx>

The Fish and Game Commission (FGC) last met on February 21 in Sacramento. Minutes from the meeting are not available. Agenda: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=177021&inline>

The next FGC meeting is scheduled for April 15-16 in Sacramento; the agenda is not yet available:

February FGC meeting **CONSENT ITEMS** of Note:



Water & Wildlife cont.

ITEM 7: Mountain lion: Receive Department's 90-day evaluation report for the petition to list mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) as a threatened or endangered species under CESA.

ITEM 8: Shasta snow-wreath: Receive Department's 90-day evaluation report for the petition to list Shasta snowwreath (*Neviusia cliftonii*) as a threatened or endangered species under CESA.

ITEM 9: Foothill yellow-legged frog: The FGC **adopted findings** for the listing decisions for foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*) under CESA.

Decision to list the Southwest/South Coast, West/Central Coast, and East/Southern Sierra clades as endangered

Decision to list the Northeast/Northern Sierra and Feather River clades as threatened

Decision not to list the Northwest/North Coast clade

The full Status Review Report is available on the DFW webpage: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=174602> HYPERLINK "<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=174602&inline>"& HYPERLINK "<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=174602&inline>" inline

New Petitions:

Petition to uplist Clara Hunt's milkvetch (*Astragalus claranus*) from Threatened to Endangered.

Licensing News **Ricky Shurtz, Committee Chair**

In light of the positive feedback during last fall's RPF exam, the CLFA has written a letter to begin discussion for a long term agreement with the PFEC to collaborate in facilitating RPF exam locations and proctors. The PFEC has reviewed and sent the April exam applicants to the Board of Forestry for approval. The PFEC is looking for a grader to replace Len Lindstrand and hire one alternative grader to help with high exam numbers. The PFEC is also currently entertaining and looking into alternative exam options that allow for faster exam grading. The new RPF fees and certification rates should be approved by AOL and effective April 1, 2020. The PFEC is continuing to review and revise the professional foresters law and the Role of the RPF.



Scholarship Contributions

The CLFA Board of Directors would like to thank our CLFA members for contributing to the following scholarships!

Hazel Jackson Video Scholarship

- ◆ Michael Anderson
- ◆ Bill Keye
- ◆ Craig Blenco
- ◆ Bill & Wendy Snyder
- ◆ Larry Camp
- ◆ Pete Ribar
- ◆ Donald Beaty
- ◆ Mark Mueller
- ◆ Erik Jensen
- ◆ Russell Kobayashi
- ◆ Bob Rynearson
- ◆ Craig Tolmie

Roy Richards Scholarship:

- ◆ Steve du Chene
- ◆ Len Lindstrand
- ◆ Ruth Norman
- ◆ Lois Kaufman
- ◆ David Van Lennep
- ◆ Ken Margiott
- ◆ John Hughes

CLFA Scholarship:

- ◆ Larry Camp
- ◆ Brian Brown
- ◆ Christopher Carroll
- ◆ Kelly Conner
- ◆ Bernie Bush
- ◆ Wheeler Birdwell
- ◆ Robert Horvat
- ◆ Tyler Hullquist
- ◆ Ruth Norman
- ◆ Harold Johnson
- ◆ John Hughes
- ◆ Jesse McNames
- ◆ Doug Leisz
- ◆ Brian Rueger
- ◆ Shana Jones
- ◆ Dee Sanders

Howard Biswell Scholarship:

- ◆ Larry Camp
- ◆ Tom Amesbury
- ◆ Ruth Norman

CLFA 2020 Scholarship Winners!

The CLFA Board of Directors would like to congratulate the following 2020 scholarship winners and thank those students who also submitted applications.

- ◆ CLFA Scholarship Winner — Britta Goldstein
- ◆ Roy Richards Scholarship Winner—Adam Taylor
- ◆ Howard Biswell Scholarship Winner — Kyle Mantzouranis



Forestry Challenge Update

Future Forester to Speak at CLFA Annual Meeting

Meet Maddie Washburn, a senior at Ponderosa High School in Shingle Springs and the lunchtime speaker at the CLFA Annual Meeting on March 6.



Maddie (right) attended the El Dorado Forestry Challenge both her junior and senior years and is headed to the championship event in Tuolumne County in April. She was also employed by the US Forest Service last summer in the Generation Green program. Both experiences led Maddie to deciding to major in forestry at Oregon State University this fall.

Maddie will describe the experiences that led to her decision to become a forester and will also share her thoughts on why she chose Oregon State, after looking at several universities both inside and outside of California.



2020 CLFA BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

BOARD MEETINGS

- ◆ March 5, 2020—Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson—11:00 am to 4:00 pm
- ◆ April 15, 2020—GoToMeeting— 6:00 pm
- ◆ May 15, 2020—CLFA Audit—Granzellas, Williams—6:00 pm
- ◆ May 16, 2020—Granzellas, Williams—9:00 am—1:00 pm

CLFA WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES

- ◆ March 6 & 7, 2020—Spring Workshop—Gaia, Anderson
- ◆ March 23—27, 2020—Rescheduled 5-day Initial Archaeology Class—Gaia, Anderson—
Class is Full
- ◆ April 8 & 9, 2020—Archaeology Refreshers—Gaia, Anderson
- ◆ October 26-30, 2020—Initial 5-day Archaeology Class—Gaia, Anderson – **Class is Full**
If you would like to be on the waiting list contact Kathleen
- ◆ November 11 & 12, 2020 Archaeology Refreshers—Gaia, Anderson

Brochures and registration for all workshops & conferences will be accessible on the CLFA website!

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