

## UC ANR Certification Requirements: Legal & Otherwise

This document is for advice only. Please check for any updated legal requirements.

### Pest Control Adviser

**What.** Pest Control Advisers (PCAs) are licensed professional consultants who serve California agriculture and horticulture producers. PCAs specialize in pest management, but they are also an important resource to producers in a wide range of plant health concerns.



**Why.** California is one of just a few states that require people who advise farmers on pest management to be licensed as a Pest Control Adviser. A PCA is licensed by the State of California to provide pest management recommendations, which must be in writing.

The overall performance objectives for the PCA license are focused on laws and regulations pertaining to pest management tactics and don't capture the breadth and complexity of agronomic practices outside of pest management.

### Pesticide Applicator Requirements

**Resource:** [California Pesticide Applicator Requirements & FAQs](#)  
[Policy](#) UC ANR Policy and Procedure Manual Section 281, Policy on Pesticides & Related Chemicals: Use & Experimentation

**QAC** (Qualified Applicator Certificate). Required to apply or supervise the application of federally restricted use pesticides or state restricted materials for any purpose or on any property other than that provided by the definition of a private applicator.

**QAL** (Qualified Applicators License) Required to apply or supervise the application of federally restricted use pesticides or state restricted materials for any purpose or on any property other than that provided by the definition of a private applicator. Supervise the pesticide applications made by a licensed pest control business and are responsible for its safe and legal operation. The QAL shall include the categories of pest control activities they supervise.

**Why.** The state requires a QAC or QAL for application of restricted use materials. UC ANR Policy 281 requires a QAC for application of any pesticides. Thus, you must have QAC to apply or supervise application of pesticides.

### Certified Crop Adviser (and Certified Professional Agronomist)

**Note:** CCS is considered to be an advantage but not required.

**What.** The Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) and Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg) programs of the American Society of Agronomy are the benchmarks of professionalism.

**Why.** PCAs and others who want to provide the highest level of service to their growers should consider becoming a Certified Crop Advisor. There is nothing more important to a crop advisor than their reputation for making their growers successful. The deep knowledge of soil and water science and crop nutrition required to become a CCA means a grower is working with the most well-rounded crop advisor in the industry.

## Registered Professional Forester license

**Bottom line (Draft).** If you work in forestry (outside Federal and Urban areas) you will need to be a Registered Professional Forester.

**Policy statement** - UC ANR Policy and Procedure Manual Section 486, Licensing and Practice as a Registered Professional Forester and/or Certified Rangeland Manager

**What.** Professional Foresters Registration protects the public interest through the regulation of those individuals who are licensed to practice the profession of forestry, and whose activities have an impact upon the ecology of forested landscapes and the quality of the forest environment, within the State of California.

**Why.** California law requires all persons who wish to call themselves "professional foresters" or to act in the capacity thereof, to become registered as such through the Office of Professional Foresters Registration.

**Definition: "Forested landscapes"** means those tree-dominated landscapes and their associated vegetation types on which there is growing a significant stand of tree species, or which are naturally capable of growing a significant stand of native trees in perpetuity, **and is not otherwise devoted to non-forestry commercial, urban, or farming uses.**

See [here](#) for more on State definitions

**Grey area:** Definition of forest (30% canopy cover) also depends upon species in some cases.

## Certified Rangeland Manager

**Resource:** [California Certified Rangeland Manager Program](#)

**Bottom line (Draft).** If you work in range management and make any recommendations related to flora then you will need to be a Certified Rangeland Manager or work "under" one.

**Policy statement** - UC ANR Policy and Procedure Manual Section 486, Licensing and Practice as a Registered Professional Forester and/or Certified Rangeland Manager

**What.** The Certified Rangeland Manager program provides evidence of professional competency, to protect the public interest, and to ensure proper management of California's rangeland resources as embodied in the Code of Professional Ethics of the Society for Range Management.

**Why.** The California Code of Regulations and Public Resources Code require licensing as a CRM to conduct professional planning and management activities for non-federal "forested" rangelands.

Forested landscapes are legally defined as “tree dominated landscapes and their associated vegetation types on which are growing a significant stand of tree species or which are naturally capable of growing a significant stand of native trees in perpetuity.”

**Grey areas:** The land type must support, or be able to support 10% canopy cover of woody vegetation in order to fall under the regulations. Thus the gray area with true annual grassland – sometimes hard to determine if an area has the potential to support woody vegetation.

A license is clearly required for work on hardwood rangeland, but not on permanently tree- less shrublands, native or cultivated grasslands, or croplands.

**Activities covered** include making management recommendations, developing conservation plans and management plans, and other activities associated with professional rangeland management when made by professionals working in the private sector, universities, state agencies, and federal agencies when working on non-federal land. A license is not required for activities on your own land or on federal land.

See [Appendix](#) for more.

### **Appendix Certified Rangeland Manager From Bill Frost**

Rangeland systems in California where the Certified Rangeland Manager license applies are annual rangeland (annual grassland), oak woodland (hardwood rangeland), desert rangelands, chapparral, and some others. The general classification are vegetation systems with less than 30% cover of tree species (the definition usually says actual cover or the potential to support that cover). Once you pass that threshold then the Registered Professional Foresters License comes into play.

In the official document that covers Certified Rangeland Managers – “A rangeland manager applies scientific principles to the art and science of managing rangelands and range. Rangelands are lands supporting grass, shrub, and savanna vegetation types.”

Note: Actually, there is some gray area on whether or not the CRM applies to true annual grassland as it doesn't support any trees, so the Professional Foresters Law (under which the CRM licenses exists) may not come into play.

The CRM is a specialty license under the Professional Foresters Law.

If the Advisor is going to make resource management recommendations on those lands (does not apply to federal lands) then the Certified Rangeland Manager comes into play. If an advisor is only making recommendation regarding livestock (nutrition, herd health, genetics, etc) the CRM license would not be needed. If they are going to make any grazing management recommendations, as they clearly affect the vegetation community, then the CRM would be required. This includes grazing recommendations intended to improve water quality, restoration of ecosystems, efficient use of forage resources, etc. Many advisors have been involved in various rangeland

restoration efforts (hardwood rangeland/oak woodland has been an emphasis) then the CRM applies.

So, there may be some limited situations where an Advisor would only deal with animals and not vegetation, but I think in CE that will be very rare.

The thinking has been that our Advisors should be highly qualified and possessing the CRM license demonstrates this – in addition to any legal requirements.

There is a way to work around the requirement, if an existing Advisor with the CRM license is willing to accept responsibility for another Advisors work/recommendations, that can be arranged with a letter stating that the second Advisor is working under the direction of the Advisor with the CRM license. The Advisor with the CRM assumes all the legal liability of any recommendations or management activities of the second Advisor. I submitted a letter to that affect for (Name removed), as his program on rangeland deals with (are of specialty and I was confident of their expertise in that area.

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