

Responsible Officer:	Catherine Montano
Responsible Office:	Office of the Controller and Business Services
Issuance Date:	03/01/2003
Effective Date:	03/01/2003
Last Review Date:	08/28/2006
Scope:	Forested Landscapes

Contact:	Catherine Montano
Title:	OCBS Coordinator
Email:	catherine.montano@ucop.edu
Phone:	(510) 987 – 0103

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I. POLICY SUMMARY

ANR requires that academic staff that gives advice on activities on forested landscapes become licensed Registered Professional Foresters or Certified Rangeland Managers, in accord with State of California forestry statutes and rules in the California Public Resources Code and the California Code of Regulations. Certain Cooperative Extension (CE) Advisors, especially Natural Resources Advisors, are involved in disseminating information regarding the management of numerous forest/rangeland and forestland systems, and, as such, will need to meet the state requirements. (See Appendices I, II, & III).

The state of California has determined the existence of a public interest in the management and treatment of the forest resources and timberlands of this state and a need to provide for the regulation of persons who practice the profession of forestry and whose activities have an impact upon the ecology of forested landscapes and the quality of the forest environment.

The purpose of the state requirements is to enhance the control of air and water pollution, the preservation of scenic beauty, the protection of watersheds by flood and soil erosion control, and the production and increased yield of natural resources (including timber, forage, wildlife, and water, and outdoor recreation) to meet the needs of the people of California. The Board of Forestry, Professional Forester Examining Committee, and the California Society of Rangeland Managers Certification Panel are responsible for clarifying the effects of the new laws and regulations.

Cooperative Extension academic staff who supervise or give advice on activities on forested or forest/rangeland systems need to become licensed Registered Professional Foresters or obtain certification in the specialty Certified Rangeland Manager, as appropriate. Further, those who have authority over the activities on forested landscapes are required to be Registered Professional Foresters.

II. DEFINITIONS

Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM): Certification is required for a person who provides services pursuant to 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) 1602, at the request of the landowner or hiring agent, relating to the application of scientific principles to the art and science of managing rangelands and range. A Certified Rangeland Manager will perform professional services only in those subjects in which he or she is competent by training and experience. Note that both Registered Professional Foresters and non-Registered Professional Foresters are eligible for the specialty certification as a Certified Rangeland Manager. A Registered Professional Forester designation is not required to become a Certified Rangeland Manager. (See Appendix I.)

When a Certified Rangeland Manager is providing range management services related to the production of forage and livestock on forested landscapes, a Registered

Professional Forester shall be consulted if there are potential impacts on related forest resources.

The requirements for becoming a Certified Rangeland Manager are set forth in Appendix III and Section 1651 in Appendix II.

Forested Landscape: A Forested Landscape is legally defined as “tree dominated landscapes and their associated vegetation types on which is growing a significant stand of tree species or which are naturally capable of growing a significant stand of native trees in perpetuity.” This has been legally defined as 10 percent or more of the total rangeland.

Forestry: The science and practice of managing forested landscapes and the treatment of the forest cover in general. This includes, among other things, the application of scientific knowledge and forestry principles in the fields of fuels management and forest protection, timber growing and utilization, forest inventories, forest economics, forest valuation and finance, and the evaluation and mitigation of impacts from forestry activities on watershed and scenic values, to achieve the purposes of the state of California. The practice of forestry applies only to those activities undertaken on forested landscapes. The professional forester is not practicing forestry when mitigating or recommending mitigation of impacts from previous forestry activities on related watershed or ecological values within their area of professional expertise or when recommending those mitigations for proposed timber operations. However, public and private foresters are required to be licensed pursuant to state law when making evaluations and determinations of the appropriate overall combination of mitigations of impacts from forestry activities necessary to protect all forest resources.

Professional Forester: A person who, by reason of his or her knowledge of the natural sciences, mathematics, and the principles of forestry (acquired by forestry education and experience), performs services, including, but not limited to, consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, or responsible supervision of forestry activities when services require the application of forestry principles and techniques.

Registered Professional Forester (RPF): A person who is licensed to perform forestry services in those areas of expertise in which the person is fully competent as a result of training or experience. In order for a professional forester to fulfill all of his or her responsibilities with regard to a particular activity, collaboration with other environmental professionals may be necessary so that the application of knowledge in another field of expertise outside the practice of forestry becomes integrated. (See Appendices II & III.)

III. POLICY TEXT

- A. ANR will identify by analysis of geographical and programmatic requirements the CE Advisors and other staff that will be affected by the need for licensing either as a Registered Professional Forester or a Certified Rangeland Manager.
- B. Advisors in designated positions, but not currently licensed, will be required to

evaluate their position descriptions and responsibilities, review the RPF and CRM information provided and, within 60 days of this policy issuance, submit a report summarizing their need for licensing, or lack thereof. The ANR Coordinator of Academic

Personnel, the appropriate CE Regional Director or designee, and the ANR Natural Resources Program Leader will review these reports. The same group to determine the need for licensing will review new position descriptions.

- C.** The Natural Resources Program Leader and Regional Directors will determine within 90 days of issuance of this policy the level of certification required for each designated position, either the Specialty Certification “Certified Rangeland Manager” or licensing as a Registered Professional Forester. An official list of licensed Registered Professional Foresters and Certified Rangeland Managers will be developed to determine which positions require licensing to meet the requirements of the state law.
- D.** If licensing is required, Advisors will identify whether they will pursue licensing or will arrange a collaborative agreement whereby licensed personnel will supervise their work. Collaborative agreements must be mutually agreed upon by both the person seeking the arrangement and the licensed person and have the approval of the Natural Resources Program Leader and the appropriate Regional Director.

The plan for compliance also needs to be approved by California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management and/or the Professional Foresters Examining Committee.

- E.** All existing unlicensed staff whose job description or responsibilities indicate the need for licensing will have three (3) years to acquire the necessary education, training and experience to take and successfully pass the appropriate exam and become licensed as a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM).
- F.** Planning and coordination to meet this licensing requirement involves continuing education and training for staff members to ensure they have the prerequisites necessary to take the required examination(s). Current advisors will be given sufficient release time and funding for necessary professional development, education and/or training to obtain the required prerequisites and pass the Registered Professional Forester or the specialty Certified Rangeland Manager exams.
- G.** If an advisor has not developed a collaborative agreement and is not licensed at the end of the allowed 3-year period, his/her position description must be modified to eliminate all aspects requiring licensing. If a revision is not possible which will allow the person to address programmatic needs and goals, the person may be reassigned. All affected Position Descriptions and Position Vacancy Announcements

for new recruitments need to be updated to reflect the state requirements for licensing as an RPF or CRM. If certification is essential for a particular position under recruitment, the following phrase will be included on the Position Vacancy Announcement: “Licensing as a Registered Professional Forester (or Certified Rangeland Manager), or the necessary training and experience to obtain such licensing, is required for this position.”

IV. COMPLIANCE / RESPONSIBILITIES

The ANR Office of Academic Personnel will maintain a list of Registered Professional Foresters and Certified Rangeland Managers in ANR, as well as prepare any necessary reports. All reporting to the state of California is the responsibility of the ANR Office of the Assistant Vice President -- Programs and Academic Personnel.

V. PROCEDURES

Cross-county or area assignments, or collaboration among staff members, under supervision by a Registered Professional Forester or Certified Rangeland Manager, would fulfill the legal requirement to ensure appropriate certified coverage across California.

- A.** Statewide coordination is necessary between Regional Directors and the Program Leader to ensure licensed coverage reaches throughout the state.
- B.** After considering the level of need and type of work required, those CE academic staff currently working in this area without being a Registered Professional Forester or a Certified Rangeland Manager may continue to do so only in collaboration with or under the supervision of another Registered Professional Forester or Certified Rangeland Manager, as appropriate, within ANR. In this manner the Division will provide the necessary coverage across the state, with appropriately licensed staff supervising or collaborating with unlicensed staff on a cross-county or regional assignment basis.
- C.** Three (3) methods can be used to ensure qualified statewide forestry management coverage:
 - 1. Individual certification
 - 2. Collaboration between and across counties
 - 3. Regional or multi-county supervision of unlicensed staff.

VI. RELATED INFORMATION

- [Appendix I.](#) California Public Resources Code: Sections 750 – 783: Professional Foresters Law
- [Appendix II.](#) California Code of Regulations Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 10: Registration of Professional Foresters

- [Appendix III](#). Society for Range Management Brochure: Certified Rangeland Manager, Society for Range Management

VII. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

VIII. REVISION HISTORY

November 2017:

Format updated.