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**Note: For links to referenced documents see Section VI,
Related Information, below.**

I. POLICY SUMMARY

The University of California (UC) Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) requires that academic staff that practice or provide management guidance 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 UC ANR Advisors, especially Natural Resources Advisors with rangeland or forestry assignments, are involved in disseminating information regarding the management of numerous forest/rangeland and forestland systems, and, as such, need to meet the state requirements. (See links in Section VI, *Related Information*, below.)

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.

UC ANR academic staff who supervise or give advice that directly affects the management of 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 management 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 Section VI., *Related Information*, Item A., below.)

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. Likewise, a Registered Professional Forester shall contact a Certified Rangeland Manager when working on rangeland management if that forester lacks experience or expertise in managing rangeland.

The requirements for becoming a Certified Rangeland Manager are set forth in Section VI, *Related Information*, Item B. (see Section 1651), as well as in Item C.

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.

Rangeland Management: The California Board of Forestry defines tasks associated with the practice of rangeland management that must be certified as including, but not limited to the following:

Drafting rangeland management plans to meet specific natural resource objectives, including:

- Vegetative fuel management on rangelands;
- Control or management of invasive species;
- Reintroduction or increase of desirable species;
- Improvement of economic viability of rangeland;
- Mitigation of potential environmental effects. Developing and implementing means of improving or maintaining watershed function.
- Conducting rangeland inventories and assessments. Making recommendations

regarding prescriptive grazing on rangelands.

- Planning and implementation of rangeland monitoring programs.
- Providing recommendations regarding conservation of, and regard for, rangeland as an expression of open space, viewshed, watershed and other public benefits

Professional Forester: A person who, by reason of their 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 Section VI, *Related Information*, Items B. and C. below.)

III. POLICY TEXT

- A. UC ANR will identify by analysis of geographical and programmatic requirements the UC ANR 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 submit a report summarizing their need for licensing, or lack thereof. The UC ANR Academic Human Resources Manager, the UC ANR Vice Provost of Strategic Initiatives and Statewide Programs or designee, and the Sustainable Natural Ecosystems Strategic Initiative Leader will review these reports. The same group used to determine the need for licensing will review new position descriptions.
- C. The Vice Provost of Strategic Initiatives and Statewide Programs will determine the level of certification required for each designated position, either the Specialty Certification “Certified Rangeland Manager” or licensing as a Registered Professional Forester.
- 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 UC Cooperative Extension County Director, or if the Advisor is a County Director, their immediate supervisor.

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 need to take steps to acquire the necessary education, training and experience to qualify to take the appropriate exam and subsequently must pass and become a licensed as a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM) prior to being granted indefinite status (usually the third term review or six years, in accordance with the requirements of the Position Vacancy Announcement). Alternatively, an exception may be granted by the UC ANR Associate Vice President.
- 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 (outside professional consulting days) and funding (Program Support funds) 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 period, their 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 assigned. 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 Office of Academic Human Resources will maintain a list of Registered Professional Foresters and Certified Rangeland Managers in UC ANR, as well as prepare any necessary reports. All reporting to the state of California is the responsibility of the UC ANR Office of the Associate Vice President.

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.

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- A.** Statewide coordination is necessary between UC Cooperative Extension County Directors and the Vice Provost of Strategic Initiatives and Statewide Programs to ensure licensed coverage reaches throughout the state.
- B.** After considering the level of need and type of work required, those UC Cooperative Extension 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 UC 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

- [California Public Resources Code: Sections 750 – 783: Professional Foresters Law](#)
- [California Code of Regulations Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 10: Registration of Professional Foresters](#)
- [Society for Range Management Certified Rangeland Manager Brochure](#)

VII. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Not used.

VIII. REVISION HISTORY

November 2017:

Format updated.

September 2020:

Minor content changes, title updates, link corrections.