

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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Request for Nominations:

2026 FRANCIS H. RAYMOND AWARD

Nomination Deadline Extended to August 14, 2026

Date of Notice: July 7, 2026

The California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is seeking nominations for the **2026 Francis H. Raymond Award**. The annual award is given to the individual, organization, agency or company who has contributed the most to the management of California's natural resources over the past five years.

The award is named in honor of Francis H. Raymond, former State Forester and father of the Professional Foresters Licensing Act.

The 2025 award was awarded to Dr. Thomas Smith of CAL FIRE for his leadership in protecting California communities from invasive forest pests while working as the State Forest Entomologist.

Previous recipients of the Award include: Ryan Tompkins, YG Gentry, Darin Quigley, the Fresno County Tree Mortality Task Force, Gary Ryneerson, the California Forest Pest Council, Tom Jopson, Geri Bergen, Lois Kaufman, Dr. Richard Standiford, the Sierra Cascade Logging Conference, the California Society of American Foresters, Dr. Douglas Piirto, Douglas Ferrier, the UC Berkeley Forestry Program, Michael De Lasaux, Jere Melo, LA County Fire, and Diane Dealey Neill.

Nominations and any letters of support are due to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection no later than end of business day, Friday, **August 14, 2026**. The nomination(s) will then be reviewed by the Board's nomination review committee. Upon a recommendation by the nomination review committee, the Award will be presented at one of the Board meetings scheduled for this fall. Direction on the suggested nomination format is provided on the following page.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the staff of the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection at 916-653-8007 or by email to dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov. Nominations may be posted to the attention of the FHR Nomination Review Committee, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460. Nominations may also be sent by email to Dan Stapleton. Please include all letters and other materials in support of your nomination in your email. Contributions to endow the Francis H. Raymond Award are greatly appreciated. The stipend that accompanies this Award depends on the interest earned from donations made to the Francis H. Raymond Fund.

Suggested Francis H. Raymond Award Nomination Format

THERE IS NO ESTABLISHED FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF NOMINATIONS. THE NOMINEES MUST AGREE TO THE SUBMISSION OF THEIR NAME FOR CONSIDERATION. BASED ON PREVIOUS SUCCESSFUL NOMINATIONS, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE SUGGESTED FOR INCLUSION IN THE NOMINATION PACKET:

- 1) A short introduction letter on nominator's letterhead.
- 2) A narrative of the nominee's qualifications, educational background, work history and accomplishments. (The Award criteria dictates that the work of the past five years is the key to selection, irrespective of a long history of superior service or accomplishment)
- 3) Letters of support from other individuals and organizations are important. A wide spectrum of support from diverse interests, including local politicians, has been a characteristic of previous successful nominees.
- 4) Copies of newspaper or magazine articles on the nominee are key to supporting a nomination.
- 5) Attach examples of the nominee's work and/or publications, if appropriate.
- 6) Photographs may be helpful if they illustrate the extent of the nominee's dedication and accomplishment.

The key to the Award is effort above and beyond what is normally expected on the job. Volunteer efforts, serving on committees, public service, etc., are important.

The nomination committee requires only one copy of the nomination packet which may be scanned and emailed to Assistant Executive Officer Dan Stapleton at his email address dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov. It is preferred that all letters of support be included with the initial nomination, rather than submitted individually.

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