

# Licensing News

Office of Professional Foresters Registration

**SUMMER 2026  
VOLUME 38 - ISSUE 1**



## **CURRENT PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS EXAMINING COMMITTEE COMPOSITION**

*Professional Foresters Registration shall protect 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.*

Mr. Frank Mulhair, Chair – RPF (Industry Member)  
Mr. William Snyder, Vice Chair – RPF (Government Member, Retired)  
Mr. Christian Eggleton – RPF (Consultant member)  
Mr. David Lile – CRM (Certified Specialty)  
Mr. James Hawkins – RPF (Industry Member)  
Ms. Danielle Lindler – RPF (Industry Member)  
Mr. Jason Poburko – RPF (Government member)  
Mr. Dan Sendek – RPF (Public Member, Retired)  
Ms. Yana Valachovic – RPF (Government Member)  
VACANT – (Public Member, Board of Forestry)

### **PROGRAM STAFF**

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### **CURRENT BOARD OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION COMPOSITION**

*The Board's mission is to lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of forest and rangelands, and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state.*

Mr. Terrence O'Brien, Chair (Public Representative)  
Ms. Elizabeth Forsburg, Vice-Chair (Public Representative)  
Mr. Ryan Hilburn (Industry Representative)  
Ms. Katie Delbar (Range/Livestock Representative)  
Ms. Elicia Goldsworthy (Industry Representative)  
Mr. J Lopez (Public Representative)  
Mr. Joe King (Industry Representative)  
Ms. Dawn Blake (Public Representative)  
Mr. Rhys Williams (Public Representative)

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## Executive Officer, Tony Anderson

As I approach my first year as Executive Officer of the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, I'm reflecting on what I've heard and learned from foresters, landowners, practitioners, local governments, fire professionals, conservation partners, and members of the public across California.

My first year was intentionally focused on listening and learning. I wanted to better understand not only how the Board fulfills its role as California's forest policy authority, but also how its decisions affect the people and communities who engage with them every day. Along the way, I heard concerns, discovered new—and sometimes long-overlooked or ignored—ideas, witnessed real challenges, and gained an even deeper appreciation for the remarkable work taking place across California's forests and working landscapes.

Now it's time to turn those conversations into action. This past year reinforced my belief that the Board is uniquely positioned, by design, as a durable, 140-year-old institution capable of helping shape the future of forestry and fire protection in California. Under the Board's direction, I'm proud to launch an initiative we're calling *BoardForward* to strengthen and advance that leadership in the months and years ahead.

*BoardForward* will examine how we engage the public, whether our committee structure best supports the Board's mission, how we prioritize and approach our responsibilities, and how we position ourselves to address emerging issues and opportunities. More importantly, it is about preparing the Board not just for today's challenges, but for the next decade and beyond.

That means thinking differently about forestry's role in addressing California's broader challenges, strengthening partnerships across disciplines and communities, and helping Californians better understand the extraordinary work being accomplished every day by forestry and forest product professionals. It is a story worth telling, and one we have an opportunity—and responsibility—to tell more effectively.

*BoardForward* will succeed only through collaboration, thoughtful dialogue, and a willingness to challenge ourselves. I look forward to hearing your ideas, learning from your perspectives, and working together to ensure the Board remains a strong, trusted, and durable leader for California's forests, working landscapes, and communities for generations to come.

## **The View from the 10<sup>th</sup> Floor**

***by Dan Stapleton, Asst. Executive Officer***

The Office of Professional Foresters Registration has continued to see a stable, slightly growing number of registrants over the past three years. This is very important considering the demographics of the registry continue to be dominated by registrants who have been registered for 30 years or more (38% of RPF registrants).

A recent inquiry regarding the number of grandfathered licenses approved in 1973 revealed that approximately 1600 licenses were issued without examination. Thus, it has taken approximately 50 years to approve the same number of licenses through examination as the 1600 that were initially grandfathered in 1973. A slow process to be sure, but an essential one in protecting the public interest in California's forestlands and associated natural resources.

The RPF exam is challenging on purpose, to protect the public from practitioners who are negligent, incompetent, fraudulent or deceitful and do not conform to the Professional Foresters Law or Forest Practice Rules. A general overview of the effectiveness of the licensing process can be represented by the number of complaints received, dismissed or enforced by the findings of the Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC) against those practitioners responding to such complaints. The numbers over the last 28 years are as follows.

312 = total number of complaints since 1998 (28 years)

29 = total number of complaints since 2016 (10 years)

Over the last twenty-eight years, only nine percent of all complaints received occurred in the last decade (2016-2026). Twenty-nine complaints were received, ten of the twenty-nine were either exonerated or not actionable, eleven of the twenty nine complaints were for unlicensed practice.

Since 2016

- 1 license revoked

- 3 licenses suspended

- 1 ended with the RPF voluntarily relinquishing the license

- 1 Board reprimand

- 2 letters of concern

- 5 exonerated

- 5 not actionable

- 11 unlicensed practice complaints

The apparent reduction in the number of complaints indicates to me that we have produced knowledgeable and qualified professionals from our current seven-year qualifying and three-year supervisory requirements before examination. It might also be that forestry is no longer such a controversial subject with the wildfire crisis currently

impacting public perceptions of forest management. In essence there may be more acceptance of forestry operations today than in the past.

The number of recent unlicensed practice complaints tells another story. With fuel reduction work becoming a more common practice, we have an increasing number of unlicensed individuals who are inserting themselves into the forester role in violation of the Professional Foresters Law (PFL). It is important that we report violations when we witness them so these individuals may be contacted and informed of the license requirements. I have posted on the Board's website a letter which was sent out this spring to several institutions to clarify the PFL. The letter can be found [HERE](#).

The PFEC continues to work on a handful of subjects to help strengthen the license and reduce barriers to natural resource professionals interested in pursuing a forestry career. The PFEC has also increased the Application Fee for licensing set in 1994 from \$200 to \$450 to cover the costs to continue to develop, administer and grade examinations. The Next PFEC meeting is August 28, 2026.

## **Board Member Additions**

### **New Board Member, Joe King**



Joseph "Joe" King, of Grass Valley, has been appointed to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. King has held multiple positions at Sierra Pacific Industries since 2015, including Tahoe District Manager and Tahoe District Forester. He was a Seasonal Forestry Technician at Green Diamond Resource Company in 2015. King was a Seasonal Hydrologic Technician at the United States Forest Service in 2014. He was a Seasonal Aquatics Technician at Green Diamond Resource Company in 2013. King held multiple positions at University of Southern California, Viterbi School of Engineering from 2005 to

2011, including Graduate Admissions Coordinator and Administrative Assistant. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry from California Polytechnic State University, Humboldt.



## **New Board Member, Rhys Williams**



Rhys Williams, of Orangevale, has been appointed to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Williams held multiple roles in the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom from 2019 to 2025, including Acting Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Counselor on Infrastructure, Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary, and Senior Advisor on Emergency Preparedness and Management. He was Chief of Staff at the Office of Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom from 2014 to 2019. Williams was Communications Director at the Office of Senate Pro Tempore in the Senate Rules Committee from 2012 to 2014. He earned a Master of Science in Economics degree from the University of Wales and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Politics from the

University of Exeter. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$100 per diem. Williams is a Democrat.

## **Board Staff additions**

### **Kate Cook**



Kate Cook serves as Senior Board Counsel to the Board. Prior to joining the Board, Cook spent seven years at the California High-Speed Rail Authority. While there she handled a variety of high-profile matters, including billion-dollar plus public works procurements, federal grant agreements, real property matters, conflicts of interest, as well as public records and open meeting questions. Cook also spent nearly a decade in private practice advising local agencies. The majority of this time was at Meyers Nave, where she served as City Attorney and Deputy City Attorney for several Northern California cities. In this role she advised elected and appointed officials on a variety of issues, including

Constitutional, environmental, land use, joint powers agreements, cannabis ordinances, conflicts of interest, finance, public records, and open and public meetings. Prior to her legal career, she worked as a print journalist in Boulder County, Colorado, covering local government issues, including coverage of numerous wildfires. Cook received her Bachelor of Arts in literature and writing from the University of California, San Diego, where she played on the Women's Soccer Team for four years. She received her Juris Doctorate from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law with honors.

## Delia Rojas



Delia Rojas serves as Attorney III for the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, where she provides regulatory counsel on matters of California forestry and wildfire policy. Rojas brings nearly a decade of regulatory law experience to this role. During her tenure at Emerge Law group she led cross-functional teams managing license applications across multiple state jurisdictions and advised clients on evolving regulatory requirements across state lines. Previously as an associate with Beck law, she directed corporate formation, permitting, and state licensing matters for numerous businesses operating in California's highly regulated cannabis industry. As a native Californian from Santa Rosa, Rojas brings a longstanding passion and commitment to conservation and their preservation for future generations. Rojas has a JD with a specialization in intellectual property from Golden Gate University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in music industry and technology with a minor in psychology from CSU Chico.

## **Board Departures, Rich Wade**

Rich Wade is leaving the Board after almost 15 years of service. His calm demeanor and ability to focus on the details has helped the Board to deliver useful regulatory development over the course of his tenure at the Board. Rich has held multiple



positions at Sierra Pacific Industries since 1995, including district manager and district forester. He was a forester at the Cal Oak Lumber Company from 1983 to 1995 and at James Nicklos and Associates from 1980 to 1983. Wade was a harvest inspector for the U.S. Forest Service from 1979 to 1980 and a forester at Western Timber Services Inc. from 1978 to 1979. He is treasurer on the Forestry Educators Inc. Board of Directors. Wade is a member of the El Dorado County Resource Advisory Committee, the Amador-El Dorado Forest Forum, California

Licensed Foresters Association, the Society of American Foresters and the California Native Plant Society. Rich will be missed by the Board and Board staff for his friendship and collaboration in developing common sense solutions to challenging forestry issues.

## **Board Meeting Dates**

### **Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Meeting Dates.**

The Board's next meeting is scheduled for August 19 at the Natural Resources Building in Sacramento. Board meeting schedule dates can be found at this [link](#). The public may sign up for webinars at the Board of Forestry website [homepage](#) at <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/>. You can use this link to also view agendas and other information for the Board and for the advisory committees listed below. Agendas



can be found 10 days prior to the meeting date at the homepage link under Business.

## **CALIFORNIA TOTAL WILDLAND FIRE STATS YTD**

Year-To-Date (YTD) is for current year, last year, and 5-year average, as of July 28, 2026.

| INTERVAL                                   | WILDLAND FIRES | ACRES   |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| 2026 Combined USFS, CAL FIRE YTD (7/28/26) | 4,036          | 208,338 |
| 2025 Combined USFS, CAL FIRE YTD           | 4,759          | 228,215 |
| 5 Year Average (same interval)             | 5,278          | 306,737 |

\* <https://www.fire.ca.gov/our-impact/statistics> Updated weekly from preliminary numbers from our dispatch system and the national Incident Management Situation Report. These numbers may change as we receive more accurate information and remove false alarms.

## **Disciplinary Actions Report**

Since the publication of the last Licensing News, two complaints have been received, one alleging unlicensed practice. An email was sent explaining the licensing requirements and subsequently it was determined no violation of the PFL had occurred. The second complaint is under review.

## **Outreach for Future RPFs by Dan Stapleton**

Please help me pass the word about careers in forestry and send me any suggestions you may have about groups who may be interested in hearing about career development and opportunities in the forestry field. Call the Office of Professional Foresters Registration 916-653-8031 or email me at [dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov](mailto:dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov).

## **REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS & CERTIFIED RANGELAND MANAGERS**

The table below indicates the known status of all current and former registrants by license type as of **July 15, 2026**. Expired licensees subsequently revoked by the Board for non-payment have one year to pay all fees to reinstate.

| <b>STATUS</b>                                | <b>RPFs</b>  | <b>CRMs</b> |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Valid                                        | 1,066        | 64          |
| Withdrawn                                    | 95           | 7           |
| Expired                                      | 53           | 7           |
| Revoked (non-payment or disciplinary action) | 869          | 29          |
| Voluntarily Relinquished                     | 854          | 21          |
| Probation                                    | 0            | 0           |
| Deceased                                     | 372          | 7           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                 | <b>3,309</b> | <b>135</b>  |



### **Snapshot in History**



**Francis H. Raymond in the center. Association of State Foresters October 10-12, 1955, Deadwood South Dakota**

## **Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC)**

The PFEC manages the registry of licensed foresters and certified rangeland managers in the State of California. The PFEC enforces the Professional Foresters Law and provides licensing examinations twice a year. The next PFEC meeting is planned for August 28, 2026.

The PFEC approved a new exam application fee of \$450 and updated qualifying forestry work experience to include a limit of 2 years for arboriculture when it is conducted on Forested Landscapes for public safety purposes. No RPF supervisor is allowed for arboriculture under this proposed regulatory update.

Additionally, the PFEC added a definition of supervision and updated information in 14 CCR 1622.2 to allow a contracted RPF supervisor to sign an affidavit that includes additional information about the supervision when the contract is not available to the supervised designee as currently required under 1622.2.

Current PFEC discussion items for the next meeting include:

- Continuing Education.
- Review of exam application process and policy.
- Review of October 2026 RPF exam applications in closed session.

More information about this advisory committee to the Board can be found [HERE](#).

## **Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC)**

In January 2026, the Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) Annual Report and Workplan ('Report') was updated and approved by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) and is intended to catalogue the yearly accomplishments and status of ongoing RMAC efforts. The Report provides an update of current RMAC membership and staffing, summarizes RMAC activities and progress toward Annual Priorities and Objectives for the previous calendar year, details the Annual Priorities and Objectives for the upcoming calendar year, and highlights constraints and challenges for the committee in completing its Annual Priorities.

The RMAC has substantially renewed efforts in the past several years to establish or re-invigorate collaborations with related agencies and organizations to better leverage the various resources, expertise, and efforts of these institutions to collectively support improved rangeland resource conditions across the State. The RMAC has marked

substantial but annually variable growth in its annual educational program by capitalizing on its renewed collaborations with state agencies, internal state departments, and task forces, as well as local and state-wide range-related organizations.

In 2026, the RMAC will continue to support informational needs and efforts for the successful application of prescribed grazing and will continue ongoing efforts as it is able to support SB 675.

You may view the annual report [HERE](#). More information about this advisory committee to the Board can be found on the [RMAC webpage](#).

## **Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC)**

The Board formed the EMC in 2014 to develop and implement a monitoring program to provide an active feedback loop to policymakers, managers, agencies, and the public as to the impact and effectiveness of state regulations in California's timberland ecosystems, including watershed and wildlife concerns. Effectiveness monitoring is necessary to assess whether management practices are achieving the resource goals and objectives set forth in the California Forest Practice Act (Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973, California PRC § 4511–4630.2 [2021]) and Forest Practice Rules (FPRs) and related natural resource protection statutes and laws, codes, and regulations, including the California Endangered Species Act (ESA), federal ESA, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act, federal Clean Water Act, and Fish and Game Code. The EMC collectively refers to these as the 'FPRs and associated regulations' and evaluates their effectiveness by utilizing research results stemming from EMC-supported research.

The EMC is allocated \$425,000 from the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund, which funds EMC-supported research projects, and is directed by AB 1492 to develop ecological performance measures for state and private forestland management. Findings are presented in a formal Adaptive Management process to inform the Board on future policy development. This process provides the basis for decision-making and facilitating adaptation to changing circumstances and unexpected outcomes in dynamic ecosystems. In 2025, the EMC moved findings from five EMC-supported research projects to the Board for consideration. In 2026, the EMC anticipates moving findings from 10 additional EMC-supported research projects to the Board for its review of potential implications to the FPRs and associated regulations. Projects may request funding for up to three subsequent years. Requests for Proposals are generally released annually in mid-March.

The next EMC meeting will take place in Sacramento on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 and interested individuals and organizations may attend in person or virtually. Registration links are coming soon—please monitor the "EMC News" section on the EMC webpage for updates. More information about this advisory committee to the Board can be found on the [EMC webpage](#).

## **California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP)** **Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)**

On March 1, 2025 the Governor issued an [Emergency Proclamation](#)<sup>1</sup> ('Proclamation') to confront the ongoing risk of catastrophic wildfires threatening public safety across California. The Proclamation directed the Board to "take immediate steps to update the California Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP EIR), in consultation with the California Natural Resources Agency and others as appropriate, to increase CalVTP's efficiency and utilization.

Major anticipated changes to be addressed in the Update include: expansion of the treatable landscape from 20.3 to 35.5 million acres, covering any areas within the State that are appropriate for vegetation management treatments regardless of fire suppression responsibility designation outside of federal or Tribal lands; integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) into vegetation management activities; incorporate disposition of biomass generated by vegetation treatment; update and expand list of covered herbicides with latest science; streamline and integrate with other environmental compliance and permitting processes; clarify and revise Standard Project Requirements (SPRs) and mitigation measures (MMs) to promote efficient implementation while protecting environmental resources; and increase efficiency of the PSA preparation process.

A dedicated [CalVTP Update webpage](#)<sup>2</sup> has been developed, which will include announcements related to stakeholder input opportunities.

In August 2026, the some CalVTP Web Applications will be replaced. A letter containing these links will be sent to project proponents once they are made and posted on the CalVTP webpage. Once these changes are made, the previous versions of the CalVTP Web Applications will no longer be accessible. The CalVTP Data Entry Guide will also be updated to align with the new applications.

Reach out to [calvtpprojects@fire.ca.gov](mailto:calvtpprojects@fire.ca.gov) if you have any questions. The draft SEIR is anticipated to be released in late 2026, with a goal of certifying the final SEIR in 2027.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025-3-1.-Forest-Management-Proc.ATTESTED.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/calvtp-homepage-and-storymap/calvtp-update>

**Table 1. Vegetation Treatment Projects Proposed for or Certified under the CalVTP as of July 7, 2026.**

|                                                                 |            |                                                                           |                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>PROPOSED PROJECTS</b><br><b># Projects Pending Approval</b>  | <b>35</b>  | <b>Pending Approval: Acres Proposed for Treatment (Sum / Footprint)*</b>  | <b>1,934,344 / 393,575</b> |
|                                                                 |            | Manual Treatment                                                          | 380,164                    |
|                                                                 |            | Mechanical Treatment                                                      | 328,725                    |
|                                                                 |            | Prescribed Fire (Broadcast)                                               | 339,743                    |
|                                                                 |            | Prescribed Fire (Pile Burn)                                               | 332,564                    |
|                                                                 |            | Herbicide Applications                                                    | 259,407                    |
|                                                                 |            | Prescribed Herbivory                                                      | 293,742                    |
| <b>APPROVED PROJECTS</b><br><b># Approved Projects</b>          | <b>146</b> | <b>Approved: Acres Planned for Treatment (Sum / Footprint)**</b>          | <b>3,476,170 / 925,831</b> |
|                                                                 |            | Manual Treatment                                                          | 702,582                    |
|                                                                 |            | Mechanical Treatment                                                      | 581,381                    |
|                                                                 |            | Prescribed Fire (Broadcast)                                               | 686,103                    |
|                                                                 |            | Prescribed Fire (Pile Burn)                                               | 537,900                    |
|                                                                 |            | Herbicide Applications                                                    | 479,179                    |
|                                                                 |            | Prescribed Herbivory                                                      | 489,025                    |
| <b># Projects with Completed or Currently Active Treatments</b> | <b>67</b>  | <b>Reported: Acres of Completed or Currently Active Treatments (Sum)†</b> | <b>29,970</b>              |
|                                                                 |            | Manual Treatment                                                          | 5,778                      |
|                                                                 |            | Mechanical Treatment                                                      | 10,349                     |
|                                                                 |            | Prescribed Fire (Broadcast)                                               | 6,546                      |
|                                                                 |            | Prescribed Fire (Pile Burn)                                               | 1,127                      |
|                                                                 |            | Herbicide Applications                                                    | 2,741                      |
|                                                                 |            | Prescribed Herbivory                                                      | 3,429                      |

\* The sum of acres for the proposed treatment activities is higher than the proposed treatment footprint, as treatment activities may overlap spatiotemporally. Moreover, proposed treatment activities may change during the preparation of the Project Specific Analysis (PSA) and may not match the approved treatment activities and/or extent of acres approved for treatment.

\*\* The sum of acres across approved treatment activities will NOT match the footprint of the approved treatment activities, as treatment activities often overlap spatiotemporally.

† This is the most accurate reflection of treated acres reported to the Board as of July 7, 2026. Temporal lags in treatment reporting are common, as projects are not required to report treated acres until projects are complete, but it is generally unclear when a project is “closed” until the lead agency notifies the Board. The Board makes efforts to collect treatment data on a regular basis but cannot compel reporting before a project is closed; this may cause years-long or even decadal lags in treatment reporting and accuracy for projects for which the lead agency is a non-CAL FIRE entity.



## **Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation**

The [Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation](#) (Institute) is dedicated to developing and expanding a robust and sustainable in-state forest products market sector with the goal of supporting the increased pace and scale of California's forest restoration and climate goals.

Current contracts with the Institute include assessing biochar-enhanced concrete and a marketing strategy and biochar guide for users and producers. Grants underway include coordinated market development for small and distributed sawmills; a feedstock chain of custody standard to track and trace forest biomass; production and testing of veneer and plywood for undervalued tanoak, black oak, and madrone; prototyping a demountable CA-sources mass timber homeless housing system; and wood fiber horticultural substrate research. For a comprehensive list of funded work to date, see [Joint Institute Funded Projects](#) on the Institute webpage.

This spring the Institute was instrumental in launching California's Mass Timber Coalition. The Coalition is a new public-private partnership that brings together local, state, and federal agencies; research institutions; industry representatives; forest sector organizations; non-profit organizations; and community partners. Its mission is to support the establishment of an in-state mass timber industry, advancing manufacturing and climate-smart construction with the goal of building resilient communities and advancing California's forest health goals and climate initiatives.

Institute meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in joining the listserv to stay abreast of Institute meetings and work, please contact Katie Harrell, program manager, at [katie.harrell@bof.ca.gov](mailto:katie.harrell@bof.ca.gov).

## **Regulatory Development**

**The following regulations have been approved by the Office of Administrative Law and went into effect on January 1, 2026.**

**Watercourse Crossings and Emergency Notice Watercourse Crossing Requirements, 2025** This regulation confirms that current regulatory requirements limiting construction or reconstruction of watercourse crossings under notices of exemption apply in ASP watersheds. It also brings the mapping requirements for watercourse crossings under emergency notice timber operations within ASP watersheds into compliance with changes made to §1052. It updates requirements for compliance with FGC § 1600 et seq. to reflect circumstances where only notification of CDFW is required. Finally, it addresses several issues that have arisen during emergency notice timber operations by adding mapping requirements for tractor road crossings and logging road watercourse crossings; requiring notification of CDFW and certification of compliance

with FGC § 1600 et seq. requirements; providing a pathway to update initial emergency notice submissions with new watercourse crossings that require construction or reconstruction; and explicitly stating that the construction or reconstruction of watercourse crossings under emergency notices comply with the Road Rules covering Watercourse Crossings under § 923.9 [§943.9, §963.9] et seq.

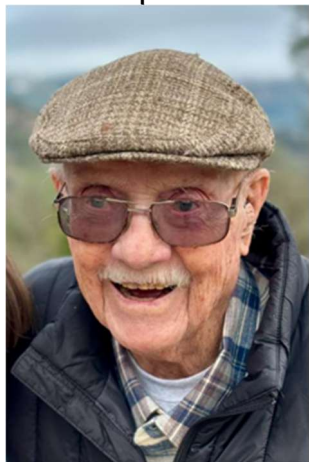
## **IN MEMORIUM**

This section is devoted to the memory of those fine foresters who have passed from our ranks. Regrettably, I am sometimes late in getting this information posted. So that I may provide timely remembrances, if you have knowledge of an RPF or CRM passing, please forward this information to my Board email address at [dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov](mailto:dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov) so that we can pay tribute to these individuals.

### **William F. "Bill" Smith**

Longtime resident of Ukiah William F. "Bill" Smith passed away peacefully on February 27th while surrounded by family.

Bill was born in 1927 in New York City to show-business parents. Raised during the Great Depression in San Francisco's Richmond District, he went on to join the US Navy



at 17 and served in the Pacific through the end of World War II. His experience fighting fires and working for the US Forest Service in the 1940s led to a long career in the woods as a professional forester for J.H. Baxter, Crawford, Georgia-Pacific, and Louisiana-Pacific. Retiring in 1985, he enjoyed many years exploring new states, countries, and continents with his beloved wife of 66 years, Billie. Together they stayed close to family near and far while involving themselves in local organizations. Bill devoted his skills and expertise to many groups such as The Sun House, the Historical Society, the Farm Bureau, the Co-op Air Patrol, the V.A., and also helped spearhead the Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project. Decades working in the woods enabled Bill's remarkable knowledge of Mendocino County's history and geography: he could name every ridge and gully, who'd ranched it, if and when it had been logged, and when a wildfire came through. His stories were legion and fortunately for us all, Bill contributed some of what he knew to the Historical Society's journal and to oral histories.

Bill lived out his life in the house he built in 1961 overlooking Ukiah, a place he always loved; his son Bradley's care and attention made that possible. Bill was preceded in death by his daughter, Leslie Elias, and his dear wife, Billie (née Prosser); he is survived by his sons Kevin (Carol Lageder) of Carlsbad, Bradley of Ukiah, and Douglas (Kate Kordich) of Berkeley, 9 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. His buoyant spirit will be missed by the many people he met over his almost 99 years.

## **Glenn Zane, RPF 382**

Glenn Zane, born in 1939, passed away peacefully on March 2, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of living his faith through actions, hard work, integrity, and deep devotion to his family and community.



Glenn was born in Modesto to Lois Leydecker and Alan Zane. He spent his childhood living between Sonoma County growing up on his grandparents' farm, where he learned about Jesus as well as the value of hard work, responsibility, and helping family and the desert in Boron where he built balsa wood planes and would hook them to a large rubber band stretched around a fencepost and then walk back as far as possible to create enough tension

before launching his planes. Those early experiences shaped the work ethic and character that would define the rest of his life.

He attended Pasadena Nazarene College, where he met his wife Cora Sanders Zane to whom he was married to for 52 years. He earned a degree in Forestry from Humboldt State University and with that Glenn went on to dedicate more than 60 years to the timber industry, building a reputation as a very honest, knowledgeable, innovative, and highly respected professional in his field. Even after retiring from several positions over the years, Glenn never truly slowed down. He remained active in the industry, continuing to develop ideas and projects and contributing his expertise right up until the end of his life. In fact, just days after his passing, a grant writer called hoping to help him launch yet another new project—an example of how engaged and forward-thinking he remained.

Glenn cared deeply about the things that mattered most to him: his family, his faith, his work, his community, and the timber industry he devoted his life to. He and his wife ran a scouting program at their church for many years and touched the lives of countless children. He served on the church board for years and one of his most proud moments was when he finally convinced the church to uncover the beautiful stained-glass window in the sanctuary that had previously been covered during a remodel. He had a gift of helping people who were struggling. He never just said he would pray for someone. He found tangible ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus in his daily life. After his first wife's passing he married Diane Tutterrow in 2015. They spent 11 happy years together traveling, working in their yard, and enjoying their families.

Outside of work, he enjoyed spending time in his shop working on projects, vacationing with his wife, and going on hunting trips with family. Glenn loved to stay busy and found great joy in building, fixing, creating, and spending time with the people he loved.

Glenn's legacy of honest, determined, and tenacious work lives on through his children and grandchildren. He will be remembered not only for the work he accomplished, but for the example he set—of dedication, perseverance, and a life well lived. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

### **Ralph Leonard Hirt**

Ralph Hirt was born on November 25, 1937, in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. He attended local schools with his older brother, David Hirt, and was affectionately known as "Fuzzy" or "Len" to his friends.



He attended Penn State's School of Forestry. One of his favorite teachers told his students, "Don't stay here locally! Go out and see new places and learn new things!" Ralph embraced this call to adventure. He spent summers working for Simpson Timber Company in Northern California, earning money to attend Penn State. After graduating, he spent two years serving in the Army, mostly in Yuma, AZ. He then returned to Northern California to work for Simpson.

In 1966, Ralph married Renate Hirt (née Rose), a pretty schoolteacher who was working in McKinleyville. They made their home in Korbel, CA. In 1968, they welcomed daughter Lara to the family, and son Brian joined them in 1970. In

1972, Ralph was promoted to Logging Superintendent in Klamath, CA. The family found a beautiful home in Crescent City. Ralph worked for Simpson until the logging operation closed in 1989. Longing to "be his own boss," he purchased and ran Harrell's Septic for ten years before retiring.

In the early 1980s, Ralph started jogging after a health fair recommended it for stress management. Being the goal-oriented person that he was, he quickly progressed from a mile to a marathon to ultra-marathons (distances longer than a marathon, typically 50K, 50M, 100M). He took great pride in his athletic accomplishments and the camaraderie of other runners. He met many lifelong friends while out running trails. He organized the Redwood Wild River Run each year in March for 30 years.

Ralph lived life to the fullest. He was known for his colorful socks and outgoing personality. He enjoyed walking and talking about the Camino de Santiago, a pilgrimage in Spain, which he walked four times. He enjoyed annual hunting trips in Kansas with his dear friend Paul Burkner. He enjoyed walking Lara's dogs on trails all over Del Norte County (although everyone on the trails knows them as "Ralph's dogs"). He enjoyed running and talking about politics and life with Jim Brown.

An avid outdoorsman, Ralph foraged for mushrooms, which he loved to share with his friends. Ralph was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph Jacob Hirt and Ruth Rinehart Hirt.

He is survived by his wife, Renate Hirt, children Lara and Brian Hirt, grandsons Gabriel and Benjamin Hirt, brother David Hirt (Emilia), sisters Marjorie Begick (Vaughn), Jan Lees (Gary), and many, many friends.

### **David Thomas Harvey, RPF 1654**



It is with great sorrow that we announce the death of David Thomas Harvey, 83. He passed away peacefully in his home, surrounded by his loving family, on the evening of February 3rd, 2025.

First among his crowning achievements was his 51 year marriage with his loving wife, Judith Louise Guisti (Harvey) (we know this from his own autobiographies), as well as their legacy of devoted loyalty towards each other not often exemplified in marriages today.

Born to Thomas Horace Harvey and Margaret Maria David (Harvey), on December 14th, 1941 in Berkeley, California at Alta Bates Hospital. David was their oldest boy, as well as the older brother of his natural sister Pamela Lee Harvey. David also had an older half-sister from his father's previous marriage, Patricia Carol Harvey.

David graduated from the Robert Louise Stevenson School (the old Delmonte School for Boys) in 1959 Pebble Beach, CA. Graduated from Stanford University with a Bachelors of Arts in Economics in 1963. And Graduated with a Masters Degree from the Yale School of Forestry in 1969. (That was one of his favorite questions to attendees of various academic institutions..."When did you graduate?"...emphasizing the importance of finishing what you started in academically rigorous environments.)

A loyal Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Eagle Scout, David volunteered for the United States Marine Corps through the Stanford Naval ROTC/USMC PLC option, entering as an Infantry Officer, 07SEP1963. Completing The Basic School Quantico, VA-1964; Mountain Operations Training Course Bridgeport, CA-1964; Nuclear Weapons Orientation San Diego, CA-1965; Vietnamese Language Course 3rd Marine Div & U.S. Marine Raider School, Okinawa-1964. He was stationed at Camp Pendleton and Camp Pulgas.

David proudly served in Vietnam from 18Aug65 thru 05Jun-1966 with Bravo Company 1st Battalion 7th Marines, as a Rifle Platoon Commander.

David participated in landing engagements at Chu Lai and Da Nang, Vietnam operations Starlight and Piranah, as well as follow-on operations as the Aide de Camp for the I Corps Brigadier General L. E. English. He later received the Bronze Star with Combat "V"

for actions rescuing several men during an operation against Viet Cong in September, 1965 north of Chu Lai, Vietnam. David's most memorable experiences were the night combat patrols, ambushes and eight day combat patrols. He received his Honorable Discharge in San Francisco, CA in 1966, as a Captain (O-3). David happily shared with his family and friends his daily gratitude for serving in the USMC, and his lessons learned surviving mortal combat against a communist insurgency.

Upon his return from the Vietnam War, David graduated the Yale School of Forestry and went on to be a resident ecologist/land manager specifically for the project of developing a 5000 acre sheep ranch into a recreational subdivision for the San Francisco second home market at the Sea Ranch, CA 1969-1971; He was the production manager of the factory and helped start up The North Face with his classmates from Stanford University at, Berkley, CA researching, developing and producing a variety of alpine products including tents, sleeping bags, parkas and skiwear 1971-1972; He was the site manager of the experimental agriculture station, including the feedlot and hay operations, while teaching classes as an assistant professor at the College of Agriculture in the evenings, renewable resources program of the S-S Ranch, University of Nevada Reno 1972-1974; General Manager feed/seed nursery and retail clothing operation at Albers Ranch and Feed, Reno, NV 1974-1975. General Superintendent for Tahoe City operations doing landscape management and snow removal at Moana Corporation, Tahoe City, CA 1975-1976.

Among his greatest achievements was starting and successfully operating his own small business as a landscape construction and maintenance contractor; Self-employed at Reno Green Landscaping, Inc. Building it from scratch into a 3.5 million dollar a year business and selling it with no debt. 1975-2005

After successfully starting, building and running his business he sold his business and worked as a State of Nevada Agriculture Inspector 2005-2010 (David LOVED traveling the State of Nevada)

David also built a first of its kind in the State of Nevada Commercial Kitchen with his youngest son, Samuel, for start-up food producers such as food trucks, caterers, and small mom and pop production kitchens to rent.

All the while, he helped manage their commercial mixed use properties supporting a variety of small businesses operating off of their family properties. (David LOVED small business operations).

David was an active member of the Eastside Foresters, Prospectors Club, and Northern Nevada Navy League.

David is survived by his loving wife Judith Louise Harvey. His younger sister Pamela. His two sons Nicholas and Samuel (Carly), Grandson Ledger and Granddaughter Everly Harvey. Also a niece and nephew from his older half-sister, Carol.



## **RPF and CRM Examination Announcements**

The October 2026 RPF/CRM Exam Notice has been posted and is scheduled for Friday October 2, 2026. The deadline for NEW applications for that exam is August 7, 2026. The Exam Notices and information on RPF and CRM exams can be found [HERE](#).

**For those retaking the exam**, you will need to submit an updated application consisting of your personal information including updated contact information through the preferred examination location on page one. Include your current job only in the engagement section so the Board can track the demographics of exam takers after each exam. Then sign and date the last page of the application and email as instructed below.

Retake exam applications are generally due one month prior to the exam date. You can scan and email these documents to my email at [dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov](mailto:dan.stapleton@bof.ca.gov). Those interested in taking the RPF or CRM examinations are encouraged to contact me with any questions about qualifications prior to applying and mailing the exam fee. I may be reached at 916-767-2140 or at the above email.

## **CAL FIRE MONITORING REPORT**

The Forest Practice Science and Monitoring Program is currently conducting the second Forest Practice Rules Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring (FORPRIEM), which evaluates how well California's Forest Practice Rules are implemented in the field and how effective they are at protecting key natural resources. FORPRIEM 2 monitors Timber Harvesting Plans (THPs) as well as Nonindustrial Timber Management Plans (NTMPs). The program focuses on watercourse and riparian protection, fuels and slash management, canopy retention, and operational impacts to hillslopes and forest infrastructure. CAL FIRE monitoring crews collect statewide field data, ensure inter region consistency, and document trends that support adaptive management, Board of Forestry reporting, and regulatory transparency.

As of July 27, 2026, monitoring crews have completed 53% of Timber Harvesting Plans, totaling 48 THPs: 33 in the Coast FPA, 12 in the Cascade FPA, and 3 in the Sierra FPA. Additionally, 7 NTMP NTOs have been sampled, split nearly evenly between interior and coastal regions, with 5 of those plans originally approved in 2012 or earlier.

Class I–II WLPZ canopy cover is averaging 81% statewide, with very limited operations recorded within the WLPZ, though significant ladder fuels and vertical connectivity continue to be documented. Class III canopy cover is averaging 57% statewide, also with minimal harvesting within 30 feet of channels, and similar patterns of ladder fuel and vertical connectivity observed. Watercourse protection for Class I, II, and III streams remains exceptionally strong, with only 3% of monitored watercourses showing sediment delivery from hillslope operations, roads, or landings.

Slash and woody fuel loading within 100 feet of roads has been higher in even aged units (about 9 inches) compared to uneven aged units (about 4 inches), all generally within Forest Practice Rule requirements. Regionally, post harvest fuel loads have been greater in the Coast FPA, averaging around 8 inches compared to approximately 3 inches in interior areas.

The program is anticipating finishing up the field season at the of 2027 summer and will follow up with a report which will then be presented to the Board of Forestry.

## **Congratulations to our new RPFs**

### **October 2025 Passing RPF Examinees**

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| James DiPasquale | Alex Vice      |
| Devin Eastman    | Hunter Harrill |
| Gavin Williams   | Benjamin Blom  |
| Zachary Barber   | Justin Barker  |
| Brian Kelly      |                |

### **April 2026 Passing RPF Examinees**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Ethan Luckens     | Andrew Fullerton       |
| Frank Heide       | Jessica Drummond       |
| Kevin Soland      | Pierre Balda Schuiling |
| Andrew Stunz      | Bartly Carlson         |
| Hudson Northrop   | Keoni Sitar            |
| Josh Theofanides  | Austin Law             |
| Bryce McCurry     | Kathryn Low            |
| Kyle Mantzouranis | Mark Inman             |
| Peter Rowland     | Isabell Berger         |
| Alan Talhelm      | Genevieve Tarino       |
| Justin Lewis      | Kane Russell           |
| Robert Muma       | Ryan Davy              |
| Alexander Cunha   | Dustin Morgan          |
| Derek Weatherbee  |                        |

## Research or Readings

### **Selective forest thinning in the eastern Cascades supports both snowpack and wildfire resilience**

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/forests-and-global-change/articles/10.3389/ffgc.2025.1707812/full>

William Poor, UW News



UW researchers, including members of the RAPID facility, fly a drone along Cle Elum Ridge in the Eastern Cascades. The drone was equipped with a lidar sensor that helped the team build a detailed 3D map of the study area and changes to the snowpack there. Photo: Mark Stone/University of Washington

As climate change nudges weather in the eastern Cascades in extreme and volatile directions, forest managers in the region have a lot to juggle. Hotter, drier summers are contributing to bigger and more frequent wildfires. Meanwhile, warmer winters may cause the Cascades to lose 50% of its annual snowpack over the next 70 years. Mountain snow supplies the Yakima River Basin with 75% of its water supply, making it a crucial reservoir for both nature and agriculture across a broad swath of central Washington. Less winter snow also leads to drier and more fire-prone forests in the summer.

To encourage fire resilience, forest managers use tried-and-true tools like controlled burning and the selective felling of trees to thin out the forest. Both methods remove fuel

and help return forests to historical conditions — but less is known about their impact on snowpack.

To address this knowledge gap, a team of researchers at the University of Washington and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) embarked on an ambitious, multiyear study of snowpack along Cle Elum Ridge, an area of the eastern Cascades in the headwaters of the Yakima River Basin. The group experimentally thinned the forest to varying degrees in a roughly 150-acre area. Then, they measured the amount and duration of snowpack during the winter of 2023 and compared it to a previous winter before the forest treatment.

The results were encouraging: Forest thinning efforts increased snowpack by 30% on north-facing slopes and by 16% on south-facing slopes. Thinning aided snowpack the most where it created a patchwork of gaps in the forest rather than a more even density; gaps of 4-16 meters in diameter seemed to be the “sweet spot” for snow.

The research points toward more refined forest management practices that can optimize for both wildfire resilience and snowpack.

The results were published March 3 in *Frontiers in Forest and Global Change*.

“At its core, this research shows that reducing wildfire risk and protecting water resources don’t have to be competing goals,” said lead author Cassie Lumbrazo, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Alaska who completed this work as a UW doctoral student of civil and environmental engineering. “That’s genuinely good news for a place facing both growing wildfire threats and increasing water vulnerability. So much of the climate conversation focuses on loss, which makes findings like this especially meaningful.”

Predicting snowpack in forested areas, especially those at higher altitudes, hinges on understanding how much snow reaches the ground and how much lands in the forest canopy. Snow on the ground is more likely to stick around through the season, whereas snow in the trees may either melt or sublimate back into water vapor. In either case, it wouldn’t add to the reservoir of water that melts in the spring and summer.

“Trees intercept snow and so can reduce snowpack, but trees also shade snow and so can retain snowpack,” said senior author Jessica Lundquist, a UW professor of civil and environmental engineering. “The dominant effect depends on winter temperatures, and the Cascade crest near Cle Elum is right on the border where the effect flips from trees decreasing snow to trees saving snow.”

Previous work by Lundquist and her team found that natural gaps in the forests of the eastern Cascades accumulated more snow. This, combined with other research, gave the team reason to hope for a positive connection between forest thinning and snowpack, though it wasn’t a sure thing. Other studies have found that open areas elsewhere in the Western U.S. saw reduced snowpack.



Thus, it was time for a direct — and complex — study of managed forests.

Researchers picked Cle Elum Ridge for the work, where TNC's forest managers were planning thinning treatments to improve forest health and wildfire resiliency. The orientation of the ridge allowed them to compare north- and south-facing slopes — southern slopes in the region see more sunshine and less snow retention on average. From October 2021 to September 2022, the researchers worked with TNC's forest managers and local contract loggers to remove trees on both slopes in a gradient, from no thinning to extensive. The team also set up time-lapse cameras at several strategic points to measure snow depth over time.

Then, they waited for snow to fall.

By March 2023, the area was close to its peak snowpack, and the team returned with staff and equipment from the UW Natural Hazards Reconnaissance Facility (RAPID). The RAPID crew flew a specialized drone that generated a detailed 3D map of the study area using a laser-mapping technology called lidar.

By comparing the new 3D map and timelapse imagery to lidar data captured before the forest treatment, the team was finally ready to calculate two things: the change to the forest structure, and its effect on the snowpack.



Lidar renderings of three different areas of the forest studied by the team. Left: a dense, untreated forest stand. Center: a medium-density thinned stand with tree clumps and gaps. Right: a dense stand with a canopy gap. Photo: Cassie Lumbrazo and Karen Dedinsky

Across the whole study area, the team found that thinning helped the forest recover 12.3 acre-feet (or about four million gallons) of water in the form of snow per 100 acres on north-facing slopes, and 5.1 acre-feet (or about 1.5 million gallons) per 100 acres on south-facing slopes.

As expected, areas where the thinning opened gaps in the canopy were most effective at restoring snow storage that had been previously lost to environmental degradation and climate change. Gaps of 4-16 meters in diameter seemed to retain the most snow, though there were few gaps larger than 16 meters to evaluate.

One surprising result: The way forest managers thin forests doesn't reliably create gaps. Forest managers map out their reductions using the density of trunks in an area, not canopies, as their primary measurement.

"Imagine a group of 100 people all holding umbrellas in the rain," said co-author Susan Dickerson-Lange, director of the UW Climate Impacts Group. "They're standing close enough together that their umbrellas overlap, so none of the rain hits the ground. If you remove 10 of the umbrellas randomly, you'd still have plenty of coverage overall. But, if you remove 10 umbrellas that are right next to one another, you create a gap in the umbrella 'canopy,' and you get a 10% increase in the amount of rain that hits the ground."

That realization adds a nuance to the findings. It's likely that forest thinning can benefit both wildfire and snowpack resilience at the same time, but only if managers keep canopy gaps in mind.

"One thing we all learned was that snow people and tree people speak different languages," Lumbrazo said. "Different experts look at totally different variables to help them decide whether or not to cut down a single tree. So an important goal is to get everyone speaking the same language. And I think this paper is one step towards better communication."

Overall, the results suggest practical changes to forest management practices in the eastern Cascades. For example, managers might consider more tree-thinning on north-facing slopes, since snowpack gains may be greater there. With further research, these learnings may also extend to other regions in the Pacific Northwest.

The work could also aid collaboration between forest managers and hydrologists at a time when the region needs all the water it can get.

"As we lose snowpack, everything becomes really squeezed," said co-author Emily Howe, a senior aquatic ecologist at TNC who earned her doctorate in aquatic and fishery sciences at the UW. "We are currently in our third consecutive year of water restrictions in the Yakima River Basin, and are staring down one of the lowest snow years on record. However, our research shows that the treatments currently used for restoring fire resilient forests are compatible with the forest structure needed for supporting water security. And in a world where climate change is reducing water supplies and increasing wildfire severity, we are pleased to report that the same forest treatments can support both goals."

Co-authors include Steven Pestana, a former UW graduate student of civil and environmental engineering; John Cramblitt, a former UW undergraduate student of atmospheric and climate science; Karen Dedinsky, a data processing specialist at the UW



RAPID facility; and Kyle Smith, director of Forest Conservation and Management at The Nature Conservancy.

This research was funded by The Washington Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy and the National Science Foundation.

*For more information, contact Lundquist at [jdlund@uw.edu](mailto:jdlund@uw.edu), Dickerson-Lange at [dickers@uw.edu](mailto:dickers@uw.edu) or Howe at [eemily.howe@tnc.org](mailto:eemily.howe@tnc.org).*

## **Declines in Conifer Forest Recovery and Forest Loss From Four Decades of Wildfire in California**

**Ved N. Bhoot, Jinhyuk E. Kim, James T. Randerson, and Michael L. Goulden**  
**Department of Earth System Science, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA, USA**

<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1029/2025JG009105>

**Abstract** California's forests are increasingly being exposed to intense wildfires. Past research has tracked wildfires' impact on these natural lands, yet there remains a critical gap in tracking post-fire vegetation recovery and its trends, particularly for the extent of different forest types. Here, we developed annual maps of discrete vegetation classes using seasonal satellite surface reflectance and a random forest classifier. We first used our maps to track changes in vegetation cover in the study area from 1985 to 2022. For burned areas between 1985 and 2022, conifer and hardwood forests declined by 14.9% and 22.4%, respectively, but shrublands expanded 22.4%. Next, we quantified vegetation extent recovery in wildfire affected areas as the ratio of the observed post-fire area to a calculated control area for each vegetation type. We compared recovery fractions for 15 years post-fire burned in 1986–1996 and 1997–2007 wildfires and found hardwood forest recovery to be stable but with a greater interquartile range (median 99% [IQR: 92%–105%] and 100% [IQR: 77%–106%], respectively), and conifer forest recovery to be significantly declining (87% [IQR: 82%–95%] and 71% [IQR: 65%–82%], respectively). Even though hardwood forests fared better recovery-wise, recent large and severe wildfire seasons led to a decline of 4.7% in hardwood forests from 2017 to 2022 for the study area. These results depict natural lands in California that are rapidly changing, risking continuation of these trends given large, severe wildfire and climate warming.

**Plain Language Summary** California's forests are experiencing increasingly large and severe wildfires. Much work has been done to understand the loss of forests in the state, but many questions remain regarding wildfire impacts on different forest types and their ability to recover afterward. Particularly, research is limited on how conifer and hardwood forests have broadly responded to wildfires. We used satellite data and machine learning to produce maps of land cover from 1985 to 2022. Using these maps and historic wildfire

records, we tracked the extent of these two forest types and shrublands in wildfire affected areas with respect to how much we expect their extent to be in the absence of wildfire as a metric of recovery. In the study area, we found that conifer forests on average tended to recover slower than hardwood forests after wildfires. In addition, we found conifer forest recovery from 1997 to 2007 to be lower compared to those burned in 1986–1996. Even though hardwood forest recovery was stable, hardwood forest area rapidly declined after large severe wildfires between 2017 and 2022.

**XX END XX**



**Board Staff 2026**