

## EVOLUTION OF CERTIFIED RANGELAND MANAGER PROGRAM

**1972** – Professional Foresters Licensing Act (PFLA) broadly defines forestry and requires a state license to practice forestry.

**1987** – Professional Foresters Examining Committee appoints task force to examine the role of Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) on hardwood rangelands. Task force finds that law requires an RPF to supervise wildland management. Implies that range managers must be licensed or practice under an RPF.

**1988** – State Board of Forestry (BOF) appoints Hardwood/Range Ad Hoc Committee. Committee agrees with 1987 conclusions about existing law, but suggests clarified definitions of legal terms, application of revised regulations, and possibly, changes in PFLA to provide opportunities for non-forestry professional practice.

**1990** – State Attorney General renders opinion that “forest” and “wildland” are synonyms, therefore, rangeland management is legally considered forestry, requiring supervision of an RPF.

**1991** – Calif. Section SRM appoints Panel on Certification to develop certification criteria and procedures, and certify rangeland managers.

**1992** – AB 1903 modifies PFLA to authorize individuals to seek BOF registration as certified specialists under a professional society’s program.

**1994** – California Code of Regulations amended to allow state licensing of Certified Rangeland Managers under PFLA. Redefines scope of PFLA as applying to “forested landscapes.”

**1995** – First Certified Rangeland Managers licensed.

**2007** – BOF Policy 11 distinguishes forestry and rangeland management from other professions.

**2008** – State Attorney General confirms CRM license requirement to practice, supervise others, and maintain standing.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION AND STATE LICENSING

### EDUCATION

Completion of a degree in range management or courses in rangeland ecology and vegetation management, rangeland plant physiology, rangeland animal management, rangeland policy and planning, rangeland economics, and rangeland measurements.

### EXPERIENCE

Five years of qualifying professional experience, part of which must be in a California range type. Qualifying experience must be directly related to range and/or rangeland management and demonstrate the application of rangeland management principles. (*The Certification Panel may substitute additional experience in place of education.*)

### REFERENCES

Three letters of reference by professional rangeland managers (one must be from a CRM).

### ETHICAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All applicants must pledge to conduct their activities in accordance with the Code of Ethics of the Society for Range management. CRMs must also participate in the SRM and in continuing education activities.

### EXAMINATION

Applicants must pass a written examination administered by the Professional Foresters Licensing Committee.

### STATE LICENSING

To be licensed as a CRM, and practice rangeland management on non-federal forested rangelands in California, you must first be certified by the California-Pacific Section, Society for Range Management (SRM). This meets the requirements of the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and allows you to apply to be licensed as a CRM. In 2008, 80 CRMs were licensed, of which 50 provided consulting services.

## WHY RANGELAND MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION IS IMPORTANT

**THE INTENT OF** the Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM) program is to provide 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 Ethics of the Society for Range Management.

**A STATE LICENSE** is required for professional range management activities on “forested landscapes” (see definition below). A license is clearly required for work on hardwood rangeland, but not necessarily on permanently treeless shrublands or grasslands. An individual who is a private landowner does not need a license to practice rangeland management on his or her property, nor is a license required for rangeland management on federal land.

**ACTIVITIES COVERED INCLUDE** making management recommendations, developing conservation plans and management plans, grazing prescriptions, and other activities associated with rangeland and rangeland resource management when made by professionals working in the private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia, state agencies, and federal agencies pertaining to non-federal forested rangeland.

**THE BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**, Professional Forestry Examining Committee, and the California-Pacific SRM Certification Panel are working together to clarify the effects of the new laws and regulations.

**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.”

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON  
THE CERTIFIED RANGELAND  
MANAGER PROGRAM:**

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**APPLICANTS:**

*Please contact the Executive Secretary of  
the Panel on Certification for information  
on application deadlines.*

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON  
REGULATIONS, CODE, HISTORY,  
CERTIFICATION, AND A LIST OF CRMS**

Visit the State Board of Forestry and Fire  
Protection and CalPac SRM websites:

[http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/professional\\_foresters\\_registration/about\\_registration/](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/professional_foresters_registration/about_registration/)  
<http://www.rangelands.org/casrm/certified.html>

**CODE OF ETHICS  
SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT**

1. Foster an environment where all people are encouraged to participate in the SRM and the management and enjoyment of rangelands.
2. Use his/her knowledge, skills, and training when appropriate to find ways to harmonize people's needs, demands and actions with the maintenance and enhancement of natural and managed rangeland ecosystems.
3. Promote competence in the field of range management by supporting high standards of education, employment, and performance.
4. Manage or perform services consistent with the highest standards of quality, integrity, and with respect for the rangeland plant and animal resources, the employer, and the public.
5. Disseminate information to promote understanding of, and appreciation for, values of rangelands to those with a direct involvement in range management, and to the general public.
6. Offer professional advice only on those range management issues in which they are informed and qualified through professional training and expertise.
7. In any communications, give full and proper credit to, and avoid misinterpretation of, the work, ideas, and achievements of others.
8. Encourage the use of sound biological information in management decisions.

**CALIFORNIA CERTIFIED  
RANGELAND MANAGER  
PROGRAM**

**CERTIFIED RANGELAND MANAGERS** apply scientific principles to the art and science of managing rangelands. Certification as a rangeland manager constitutes recognition by the California-Pacific Section, Society for Range Management (CalPac SRM) that a person meets the educational, experience, and ethical standards for professional rangeland managers. To be recognized as a Certified Rangeland Manager, and conduct rangeland management activities on many non-federal rangelands within California, a person must be licensed as a Certified Rangeland Manager by the State of California through the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

