

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
Website: www.bof.fire.ca.gov
(916) 653-8007



News Release

Non-Profit Forest Health Advisory Body and Long-Time Forestry Professional and Advocate Receive Awards for Outstanding Contributions to California Forestry

Date: December 8, 2021

**Contact: Katie Harrell
(916) 698-1035**

SACRAMENTO—The California Forest Pest Council (CFPC) and Gary Ryneerson are co-recipients of this year’s prestigious “Francis H. Raymond Award for Outstanding Contributions to California Forestry.” The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) acknowledged the CFPC for its 70 years of dedication, education and outreach, and response efforts to forest health issues impacting California as well as for its role as an advisory body to the Board. Gary Ryneerson is being recognized for 44 years as a professional forester whose career has been dedicated to industry, academic, and policy work for the betterment of California’s forests.

“The Board is very pleased to be honoring both the California Forest Pest Council and Gary Ryneerson for their vast contributions to forest health and forestry issues in California. Each recipient has made a positive impact on the health and resilience of California’s forests and the wildlife that relies upon those forests. This is the sort of hard work and dedication that will help us move California into a more resilient state as we work to manage the impacts of climate change,” said Board Chair Keith Gilliss.

Initially established in 1951 as the California Pest Control Action Committee, today the CFPC works collaboratively across agencies, disciplines, and land ownerships to promote education and outreach on forest health topics while also coordinating comprehensive responses to forest health issues and concerns. The CFPC’s work has helped to make millions of dollars available to forest health research, detection, and monitoring efforts, which has made cutting edge science-based research and technology more readily available to field practitioners while also helping to slow the spread of invasive species in California’s forests.

The CFPC is comprised of working committees that focus on various areas of scientific interest and forest health (Weed, Insect, Disease, Animal Damage and Southern California). The committees provide continuing education and technology transfer to professionals and detect and report on related forest damage throughout the State. Findings are published annually in the California Forest Pest Conditions Report and presented to the Board, other policy makers, and practitioners. When emerging forest health issues arise that require a heightened response, the CFPC establishes a dedicated task force, bringing together topical experts to implement a rapid, coordinated response and longer term monitoring and management plans. Issues of importance currently addressed through task forces are invasive shot hole borers (est. 2015), the goldspotted oak borer (est. 2013), firewood (for its role of invasive species spread, est. 2011), sudden oak death (through the CA Oak Mortality Task Force, est. 2000), and pitch canker (est. 1994).

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.

In its advisory role to the Board, the CFPC keeps the Board abreast of trending forest health issues that may be of concern. It has adopted resolutions over the years that have resulted in the Board and other agencies acting to cooperatively support communities address forest health issues. Such actions have included the Board formally recognizing each CFPC Task Force; Board-adopted Zones of Infestation (which may impose timber harvest regulations, bring resources to the local region, and provide education and outreach opportunities) for the goldspotted oak borer, sudden oak death, pitch canker, and bark beetles; the State Legislature passing the Sudden Oak Death Management Act of 2002; and numerous other historical resolutions and recommendations.

Gary Rynearson is being recognized by the Board as a second-generation forester who graduated from Humboldt State University with a Bachelor of Science in Forest Production Management. Early in his career he was a Field Logging Engineer and Road Construction/Maintenance Supervisor for Simpson Timber Company. He then left to be a Logging Engineer in British Columbia for a brief time, but soon returned to California to work for the Natural Resources Management Corporation (NRM) in Eureka from 1981 to 2005, during which time he held the title of NRM President for 20 years. Work with NRM ranged from managing small landowner ownerships to working with Tribal organizations to government land management projects, helping him to gain perspective and insight into forestry issues and forest community needs. During his time with NRM, Gary also served as president of the California Licensed Foresters Association (CLFA), where his interest in forest policy took hold. In 1990, the Board appointed Gary to serve as the chairman of the Professional Foresters Examining Committee, a position he held until 2004.

In 2000, Gary accepted an offer to be a part-time forestry instructor at Humboldt State University (HSU), where he taught an advanced Forest Policy and Ethics course, using practical experience and real-world examples to give students insight into the world of forestry. Having worked at HSU for 21 years, Gary has directly impacted the ethical development of an entire generation of forestry graduates at the university that produces the most Registered Professional Foresters in California.

Gary was appointed to the Board by Governor Davis in 2000 and reappointed in 2002, as well as appointed for a third term in 2006 by Governor Schwarzenegger. During his tenure with the Board, he served as the Sudden Oak Death Committee representative, chair of the Forest Practice Committee, and chair of the Management Committee. His leadership and expertise contributed to the development the Sudden Oak Death Emergency Rules in 2007, the updating of the road rules, a review of cumulative effects standards, expanded emergency fuel hazard reduction measures, and a review of watercourse and water quality measures.

In 2005, Gary left NRM and accepted a Forest Policy and Sustainability management position at Green Diamond Resource Company where he led the effort to develop and put in place a Forest Stewardship Certification for Green Diamond's California timberlands, followed by certifications for the company's chip export and wood chipping facilities. He also assisted in the company's development and approval of consistency determinations by the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the northern spotted owl and coho salmon, following the state Endangered Species Act listing of each, and a Safe Harbor Agreement for the Humboldt marten.

Most recently Gary worked to help pass AB 1492, which provides a lumber assessment to cover the costs of agency review for timber harvesting. He also worked with Assemblyman Chesbro to expand the fuel hazard reduction thinning exemption to the North Coast region and he worked with Assemblyman Wood and the Yurok Tribe to pass legislation that harmonized State and federal law to assist with the reintroduction of the California condor to the lower Klamath-Redwood Creek area. Gary continues to make impacts in his local community as well, through fundraisers for local organizations and local land use agreements, improving quality of life and outdoor recreation opportunities for many.

The “Francis H. Raymond Award for Outstanding Contributions to California Forestry” is named for Francis H. Raymond, Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection from 1953 to 1970. Mr. Raymond was one of the primary advocates for the passage of the Professional Foresters Law in 1973. Since 1987 the award has been given to a group or individual who has achieved excellence in forestry in California.

For more information on the CFPC and its role as the advisory body to the Board or for information on Gary Rynearson, contact Katie Harrell at (916) 698-1035.

#####