

**California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management  
Certified Rangeland Management Specialty,  
Independent Program for Certification of Rangeland Managers**

**(As approved by the Board of Directors on May 7, 2021 and recognized  
by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection on July 14, 2021)**

A rangeland manager applies scientific principles to the art and science of managing rangelands and range. Rangelands are lands supporting grass, shrub, and savanna vegetation types.

Obtaining a Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM) license is a two-step process in which an applicant is first certified by the California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management (“CalPac-SRM”), followed by issuance of a license by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (“Board”). The Board has certified CalPac-SRM’s independent program as protecting the public interest in accordance with Public Resources Code §§ 762 and 772 and 14 CCR §§ 1650 and 1651, such that certification by CalPac-SRM qualifies an individual for a state CRM license without further examination but subject to the Board’s additional licensing fees. This program serves the unique needs for certification of professional rangeland managers in California.

CalPac-SRM seeks to promote and strengthen professional standards in all activities devoted to rangeland resources. CalPac-SRM’s professional certification program is designed to evaluate the education and professional experience of rangeland managers. This program of certification is a service provided by CalPac-SRM for its members and others as a means for demonstrating the special expertise required to practice as a rangeland manager. Certification constitutes CalPac-SRM’s recognition that an applicant meets the minimum education and experience requirements and has passed an examination sponsored by CalPac-SRM.

A license may then be issued by the Board upon payment of the Board’s licensing fees and confirmation of CalPac-SRM’s certification of the individual’s education and

experience qualifications, successful completion of the examination, and payment of any separate fees imposed by CalPac-SRM. Upon licensure, a CRM becomes subject to regulation by the Board pursuant to the Professional Foresters Law and regulations, in addition to any requirements imposed by the Cal-Pac-SRM independent certification program.

**(1) Purpose:** Establish minimum standards for rangeland managers who provide rangeland management services on forested landscapes (including non-federal rangelands capable of naturally reproducing native tree species in perpetuity and generally occupying at least 10% crown cover) and provide a process for rangeland managers to demonstrate professional competency.

**(2) Certification and Licensing:** CalPac-SRM may certify an applicant based on the eligibility requirements noted below, which comprise the independent certification program approved by the Board. Licenses may be issued for a CRM specialization by the Board to those applicants who CalPac-SRM certifies as meeting the educational, experience, reference, and examination requirements, as provided in 14 CCR § 1650 and 1651.

**(3) Requirements for Eligibility:** Evidence of eligibility will be furnished by the applicant as a completed application form and pertinent supporting documents. CalPac- SRM's Certification Panel may, at its discretion, request additional supporting information.

**(A) Education Required for CRM:**

1. Completion of a course of study in a college or university leading to a bachelor's or higher degree.

2. A degree in range management or a degree in another related subject which included completion of coursework, including the following topics:

- a. rangeland ecology and rangeland vegetation management;
- b. rangeland plant physiology;
- c. rangeland animal management;
- d. rangeland policy and planning;

- e. economics of sustainable rangeland productivity; and
- f. rangeland measurements.

**(B) Experience Required for CRM:**

1. Five years (60 months full-time equivalent) of qualifying professional experience.

2. Qualifying experience begins after completion of minimum educational requirements.

3. All qualifying experience must be directly related to range and/or rangeland management and include demonstration of the application of rangeland management principles. Experience in a rangeland type found in California is required.

4. Qualifying experience is defined as the performance of activities demonstrating professional competence in the science, art, and practice of managing and using natural resources that occur on and in association with rangeland and range, and more particularly classified as:

a. Rangeland vegetation management, which includes the management of vegetation composition and productivity, animal habitat, re-vegetation, and the control of undesirable plants.

b. Rangeland animal management, which includes the management of wild and domestic herbivores, including development of grazing systems, and practices for managing and controlling livestock on range.

c. Rangeland ecology, which includes the protection of natural vegetation, ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation, and investigations into ecosystem and landscape processes.

d. Rangeland policy and planning, which includes the development of rangeland and range management plans, analysis and interpretation of laws and policies pertaining to rangeland and range management, and economics as it relates to the management of rangelands for sustainability, including productivity.

e. Rangeland measurements, which includes rangeland resource assessment and analysis of range condition.

5. Education towards a higher degree may be substituted for up to 2 years (24 months) of experience.

Other combinations of education and experience may, at the discretion of CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel, be accepted as equivalent to the requirements listed above.

**(C) Professional References Required for CRM:**

1. Three letters of reference by professional rangeland managers attesting to the applicant's qualifications. At least one letter must be from a currently licensed CRM.

**(D) CRM Examination:**

1. Each applicant for CRM shall be required to pass an examination developed and graded by CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel, covering topics pertaining to the skills and knowledge required for certification. CRM examinations are scheduled in coordination with the Board's Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC) so that they may be administered in conjunction with the PFEC's examinations for Registered Professional Foresters. The PFEC administers the CRM examination on behalf of CalPac-SRM.

**(4) CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel:**

CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel shall be composed of at least six licensed CRMs, chosen to represent a broad cross-section of employment, expertise, and interests. Members of CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel will be appointed to staggered three-year terms by the Board of Directors of CalPac-SRM, provided that the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection shall certify that a panel member meets the professional qualifications for the CRM specialty before they may undertake their responsibilities. CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel shall determine the eligibility of all applicants according to the standards of CalPac-SRM's independent certification program, as approved by the Board, and shall have authority to confer and renew certification as rangeland managers. CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel's decisions and recommendations will be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel shall establish procedures for its operation, including readily available application forms and instructions and the content and conduct of the CRM examination. CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel will respond within a reasonable time period to

all formal inquiries, applications, and examinations.

**(5) Schedule of Fees:**

An applicant is separately subject to fees imposed by both CalPac-SRM and the Board. CalPac-SRM fees pertain to its independent certification program and Board fees pertain to state licensure pursuant to the Professional Foresters Law.

(A) The fees for CRM certification under CalPac-SRM's independent certification program shall be paid to CalPac-SRM. CalPac-SRM fee schedules are subject to change by recommendation of the Certification Panel and approval by CalPac-SRM's Board of Directors.

(B) Professional Foresters Registration Program licensing and renewal fee schedules for CRM licenses are subject to statutory limits defined in the Professional Foresters Law, Public Resources Code Section 782, and may only be changed within these limits by regulatory action of the Board. The current Professional Foresters Registration Program licensing and renewal fees may be found in 14 CCR § 1605, subdivision (b).

**(6) Appeals of Denial of Eligibility or Certification and CRM Examination Results:**

(A) CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel determines the eligibility of individuals to take the CRM written examination according to the above-stated qualifications that comprise CalPac-SRM's Board-approved independent certification program; the PFEC administers the examination on behalf of CalPac-SRM.

(B) Denial of eligibility to take the examination and scoring of the examination shall be determined at the discretion of the CalPac-SRM Certification Panel, based on the above-stated eligibility criteria. An applicant may appeal an adverse determination through the Certification Panel for discretionary review by the Board of Directors.

(C) Denial of state CRM licensure by the Board following successful certification pursuant to CalPac-SRM's independent certification program may be appealed in accordance with 14 CCR §§ 1626 and 1647.

**(7) Violations of Professional Standards:** Violations of statutory or regulatory professional standards by a Board-licensed CRM may result in disciplinary actions

pursuant to the provisions of the Professional Foresters Law, Public Resources Code Sections 775-779, and the Registration of Professional Foresters Rules, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 1612- 1614. All complaints of such violations or other misconduct received by CalPac-SRM's Certification Panel will be referred to the PFEC for action.

**(8) Revisions to CalPac-SRM Independent Certification Program:** CalPac-SRM shall notify the PFEC of any proposed actions that may affect the Board-approved version of the CRM specialty certification program. Proposed modifications shall not be implemented until approved by the PFEC or Board, as appropriate, pursuant to 14 CCR § 1650, subdivision (d).

**(9) Annual Report:** CalPac-SRM shall comply with the annual reporting requirement, as described in 14 CCR § 1650, subdivision (d).

**(10) Publication of CRM Program Terms:** Upon Board recognition of CalPac-SRM's CRM independent certification program, and any amendments thereto, CalPac-SRM shall make the terms of the program publicly available and consents to the posting of the terms of the program on the Board's website, as required pursuant to 14 CCR § 1650, subdivision (e).