Certified Forester®

WHERE WE ARE,
WHERE WE’RE GOING

Greg Hay, CF
Chair,
Certification Review Board
Society of American Foresters
Where we are:

- Vision
- Mission
- Demographics
- Geographic Distribution
- 2004 Update
The vision of the Certified Forester Program® is:

- professional excellence in the application and advancement of forestry.
The mission of the Certified Forester Program® is to:

- Serve as the competency and credentialing standard for foresters
- Recognize a forester’s education, professional experience, and commitment to the ongoing pursuit of knowledge
- Promote continuing education in forestry and associated disciplines
- Increase public awareness of the forestry professional
The Certified Forester® (CF) program sets a national standard for excellence in professional forestry.

- Assesses professional forestry education and experience
- Promotes best practices and regulatory compliance through required continuing education and CF Standards of Professional Practice
Certified Forester® Criteria

- SAF accredited or SAF candidate curriculum at the bachelor’s or master’s level or a substantially equivalent professional degree from a non-SAF accredited curriculum with a minimum of 11 core courses.

- Five years or more of professional forestry experience

- Compliance with the CF Standards of Professional Practice

- 60 hrs of continuing forestry education every three years for recertification criteria
Certified Forester Examination

- Two exams
  - CF core exam-- required beginning in 2003
  - Specialized credential in sustainable forest management auditing (CF/CFA)--first in a series of optional certifications for CFs (22 CF’s are currently certified as CF/CFA)

- Computer-based exams are available in hundreds of cities throughout the US and Canada.
To ensure validity of job analysis and subsequent test development, SAF hired a top-ranked testing contractor, CASTLE Worldwide.

CASTLE guided and support SAF-designated panels of field foresters and content-matter experts.

Another SAF panel created a job analysis for accuracy and completeness of the exam.
All new CF applicants began taking the exam starting in 2003 (13 applicants took the test last year)

Foresters certified by December 2002 were not required to take the exam

SAF is exploring reciprocity with states where an exam is in place (South Carolina accepts SAF’s CF exam in lieu of their own exam) and Maine has inquired about using the exam in lieu of state exam)
How much does it cost?

- **Initial Application Fees:**
  - SAF Member - $250
  - Non-member - $325

- **Annual Renewal Fees:**
  - SAF Member - $35
  - Non-member - $60

- **Re-Certification Fees: (every 3 years)**
  - SAF Member - $50
  - Non-member - $75

- **60 Hours of Continuing Forestry Education (3yrs)**
  - @ $40/hr? = $2,400
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of New CF’s</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
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<td>10</td>
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* 5 have taken the test 4 passed. Currently 23 are approved to take the test.
Who Are Certified Foresters Today?

By Type

CF's By Member Type

- Non Member
- Professional Member
- Technician Member
- Associate Member
- Professional Student
- International Member
Who Are Certified Foresters Today?
By Membership

CF's By Years in Membership

- 1-9
- 10-19
- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
Who Are Certified Foresters?

By Age

CF's By Age

Legend:
- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70-79
- 80-89
- NAG
Who Are Certified Foresters Today?

By Gender

CF's By Gender

- Female
- Male
Who Are Certified Foresters Today? By Ethnic Group

CF's By Ethnic Group

- African American
- Asian
- Caucasian
- Hispanic
- Multi-Racial
- Native American
- No Information
- Other
Who Are Certified Foresters Today?

By Employer

CF's By Employer

- College/University
- Federal Govt
- State/Local Govt
- Private Industry
- Consultant
- Self Employed
- Association/Foundation
- Retired
- Student
- No Employer
- Other
Who Are Certified Foresters Today?

By Salary

CF's By Salary

- Under $20,000
- $20,000-$29,999
- $30,000-$39,999
- $40,000-$49,999
- $50,000-$59,999
- $60,000-$69,000
- $70,000-$79,000
- $80,000 & Over
- No Income Indicated
Who Are Certified Foresters Today?
By Position

CF's By Position

- Owner
- Retired
- Upper Level Mgr/Admin
- Mid Level Mgr/Admin
- Staff Specialist
- Field Forester
- Field Technician
- Researcher/Educator
- Other
- No Position Indicated
Where are the CF’s today?

Are you the CF Type?
Currently 3,085 Certified Foresters
5 candidates took the test, 4 passed, 23 presently approved to take the exam.
South Carolina accepts SAF’s CF exam in lieu of their own exam.
Maine in discussion with SAF about CF exam being implemented in state.
A new option available for submitting Annual or Recertification Fees
New on-line continuing forestry education (CFE) database allows on-line submission of CFE credits.
New quarterly CF Newsletter to be distributed via Email in Fall 2004
Where We’re Going:

- Strategic Plan
- Input Received from 2003 Convention
- Participant discussion regarding future direction of CF program
Strategic Plan
6 strategic outcomes:

- Every forester will aspire to be a Certified Forester (CF)
- Specialized supplemental credentials will be offered to CF’s to define the forestry standards further, to enhance professionalism, and to help formalize expectations of a given specialty.
- Continuing education will be facilitated, promoted, and evaluated to advance the profession of forestry and to foster a climate of lifelong learning.
- The CF program will be distinctive and clearly understood by internal and external audiences.
- The CF program will work with other organizations and entities (e.g. states, ACF, ISA, FSG) to create a collaborative environment for credentialing.
- The CF program will be managed effectively and efficiently by the CRB.
Every forester will aspire to be a Certified Forester (CF)

- Increase membership in the CF program to mirror the diversity of the forestry profession.
- Persuade government agencies to recognize the CF as a license.
- Encourage state boards to use or recognize the CF exam as the basis for qualifications.
- Negotiate with ACF to use the CF exam as their basis for qualification.
- Develop a Forester-in-Training program that will serve as a feeder to CF status.
- Strive for CF membership => 5,000 by 2006, 10,000 by 2010.
Specialized supplemental credentials will be offered to CF’s.

- Create an environment that welcomes and includes those having or developing specialized knowledge and experience in forestry.
- Establish and grow a base of specialty credentials that serve the public and the profession.
- Collaborate with specialized forest practitioners to develop and promote certification to serve society at large.
Continuing education will be facilitated, promoted, and evaluated to advance the profession of forestry and to foster a . . .

- Nurture, support, train, and encourage a network of CFE coordinators and SAF staff.
- Identify CFE course providers (continuing ed. Programs; SAF units, Science and Technology Programs, and Working Groups; forest extension; universities; allied certification programs, etc.)
- Educate CFE course providers, SAF members, CF’s and others about the mechanism that assigns CFE credits.
- Maintain and enhance standards for professional continuing forestry education.
- Embrace new technologies for continuing education opportunities.
- Collaborate with other SAF programs, closely allied professions, and other natural resource management organizations.
- Promote professional excellence through continuing education.
The CF program will be distinctive and clearly understood by internal and external audiences.

- Promote the CF program so that it is recognized and supported by employers in all sectors.
- Develop a marketing program to promote the image of the CF.
- Address certification/licensing/registration as part of the professional forestry curriculum at the university level.
- Persuade universities to use participation rates in the CF program as long-range outcome measures.
- Obtain national accreditation of the CF certification process.
The CF program will work with other organizations and entities to create a collaborative environment for credentialing.

- Continue to ensure that the CF program sets a high standard of professionalism.
- Establish appropriate pathways that will allow people to work and succeed while they are attaining the experience necessary to qualify for the CF credential (e.g. Forester-in-Training, specialized credentials)
- Foster a friendly environment in which “credentialing needs” discussions can take place and facilitate those discussions.
- Collaborate with states that have licensing or registration to enhance the respective abilities to serve each other’s needs.
- Promote the use of the CF exam as the basis for qualification in other credentialing programs.
- Enhance the ability of the CF’s to serve landowners and society with integrity, ethical behavior, and accountability.
The CF program will be managed effectively and efficiently by the CRB.

- Ensure balanced, consistent, and impartial implementation of application, disciplinary, and appeals procedures through the administrative rules of the CRB.
- Advertise and convey the CRB mission and vision statements.
- Develop and implement a dynamic five-year strategic plan.
- Ensure the administrative support for the CF program to function efficiently and effectively.
- Maintain an effective tracking system.
How has the CF program benefited me specifically?

- CF credential has lent prestige in representing my professional credentials, lends legitimacy.
- Provides a credential in states without licensing. Helps earn respect.
- The notion of a national standard, in addition to state licensing, reassures clients.
- Assurance to legislators that foresters meet a national standard – i.e., they know about what they’re talking.
- In some states there are no requirements for “foresters”; as a profession, it’s important to set the bar.
- CF credential add credibility when giving expert witness testimony
- Provides opportunity for job advancement
- Nothing – hope that future recognition will provide benefits.
What 1 thing could CF do to increase benefit to me?

- Used as entry point to licensing in all 50 states.
- All federal and state foresters must be CF or CF-I-T (forester in training)
- Could help reduce incidence of non-foresters representing themselves as foresters.
- Help/encourage foresters to improve themselves in “areas of weakness”.
- CF program should identify the risks that may come from having a nationally recognized standard – e.g., in court, if you know more or have more credentials, you may be more culpable.
- Need to take message beyond forestry community and woodland owners. E.g., target legal field to inform them that there are CFs.
How does the CF program support the SAF mission?

- Non-SAF members can be CF’s: therefore CF gives us a mechanism to police “bad” behavior of those who are not SAF members.
Why did *you* choose to become a Certified Forester?
How has the program benefited you specifically?
What 1 thing could be done in 2005 to increase the benefit of the CF program to me?
How should the CF program support the SAF mission?
Questions? Comments?

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For more information or to apply,
visit: www.certifiedforester.org