

## 2012 RFT Registration Exam

This package contains the exam questions and key points (in italics) listed after each question that may be used or referenced for developing good answers. This list of key points is meant to provide direction to members on areas for further study in regards to the exam questions. It is not meant to be a definitive answer to each question and a candidate may well come up with other valid points.

### Question 1 (Short answer)

You are a new RFT and your new supervisor has asked you to do a site visit and prepare a site rehabilitation plan for a wildfire. This will involve gathering field information and making a report with options and recommendations for implementation.

a) Tell us how you would go about doing professional quality field work for this project?

(5 marks)

*Guidance for Professional Quality Field Work February 2009 (generic for any project, use this scenario to describe in your own words how you would work), ABCFP code of Ethics, Standards of Professional Practice.*

- 1. Pre-field preparation or planning; understanding what has to be done, resources you need and how much time is required (expertise, values/information and level of detail needed, time commitment, costs).*
- 2. Field implementation / data collection; do the field work to collect data personally or by directly supervision the work of others or by engaging others (show due diligence)*
- 3. Post – field analysis; write up of data, how it was collected, outcomes, and recommendations/decisions, rational for decisions, what went well/needs improvement.*
- 4. Communication*

b) Why is it important to provide professional quality field work?

(5 marks)

*The Foresters Act and association bylaws provide the legal basis for member standards and their obligations to the public, profession, employers/clients, and other members. Statutory requirements relating to forest practices are an example of public legislation that depends on the concept of professional reliance for its success.*

*For example, the successful implementation of operational plans that are enabled by forest practices legislation relies on forest professionals carrying out professional quality field work. Often it may be difficult, costly or even impossible to collect the primary field data again, or the primary data will be required and reviewed for many years to come. In many cases, the fieldwork is the starting point for the quality and reliability of the professional work that will follow. Five fundamental 'pillars of professional practice' provide the necessary basis for professional quality field work and help to ensure that the requirements of the task, and the logical expectations of those relying on the work, are met. The pillar of "competence" is essential for professional field work, and is the focus for this guidance document. It has three essential components: knowledge; completeness and correctness; and professional care. Our Standards of Professional Practice defines each of these components, and their importance, for professional quality work.*

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## Question 2 (Short answer)

Section 2 of the Foresters Act provides an exception in that a non-member who engages in the practice of professional forestry under the supervision of a registered member does not commit an offence against the Foresters Act.

- a) What obligations does a registered member have when supervising a non-member who is doing professional work and how would you fulfill these obligations?

(7 marks)

*Use your own words to describe your obligations and how you must sign off the work of a non-member.*

- *Section 2 of the Foresters Act*
- *ABCFP Bylaws*
- *Outlined in the Guideline for professional supervision September 2004*
- *satisfy themselves that the non-member is competent to carry out those duties that otherwise would constitute the practice of professional forestry*
- *Take on the professional accountability for the "professional work".*
- *Due diligence; know the level of "expertise" of the individual you are supervising, be familiar with the type of work, work area etc.*

- b) How must the registered member sign off the work of a non-member?

(3 marks)

- *Use appropriate sign off to describe that you did the work, or you supervised the work and/or you reviewed the work and you certify it meets the "professional standard".*

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## Question 3 (Essay)

You are preparing a cutting permit. In reviewing the cruise map, data and compilation results, for a block which you are very familiar with, you believe the cruiser did not type the block correctly. You re-draw the type lines and re-compile for your cutting permit. Your subsequent analysis indicates a reduction in stumpage after the typing modification and re-compilation.

- a) Are your actions appropriate? Explain. (4 marks)
- b) What if the cruiser was also a forest professional? (3 marks)
- c) Would your final submission change if the analysis indicated a stumpage increase? (3 marks)

*Two approaches to the question.*

1. *That it is not ethical to refute work of another. Must also indicate that it is biased and is misrepresenting the facts.  
Any logical supported argument for the above with appropriate act/bylaw/guide reference.  
  
So long as the answer does not argue that the procedure is "correct"  
  
An understanding of the reasons that post stratification is incorrect, in addition to being unethical would be best.*
2. *An understanding that the pre-stratification determined the sample design and intensity and modification to change the results is incorrect.  
Redrawing and recompiling is manipulation to achieve results not provided by the valid sample.  
Post stratification is possible but only if the estimation is not influenced by the field work – clearly not the case here.  
  
A legitimate solution would be to re-type using the data as estimates, re-do the sampling plan, re-cruise it independent of the initial samples, - or follow an approved unbiased process to add additional samples and lower sampling error.  
  
There is little difference in behavior if the cruiser is a forest professional.  
  
Can only re-think the decision if the stumpage got worse if the argument was in favor of the change – so if the answer is yes it simply makes the issue of deliberate fraud worse.*

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## Question 4 (Essay)

Choose an activity that you feel is the practice of professional forestry and within the practice rights of an RFT. Explain:

- a) Why you consider this activity to be within one of the four practice areas. (2 marks)

*Describe an activity that falls within one of the 4 practice areas described for the RFT (operations, silviculture, protection and measurements) that requires professional judgement and expertise.*

- b) Why you consider this activity to be the practice of professional forestry. (4 marks)

*Discuss why the activity meets the definition of the practice of professional forestry in the act – reference how the work meets this definition. Make reference to the tests described in the act including:*

- *Demonstrate that the work is for fees or other remuneration.*
- *Demonstrate that the work includes advising on, performing or directing works, services or undertakings which have scope and implications with respect to forests, forest lands, forest resources, and forest ecosystems.*
- *Describe why the work requires the specialized education, knowledge, training and experience of a member.*
- *Describe how the work includes any of the areas in parts (a) through (f) of the definition.*

- c) Why you consider this activity to be within the RFT scope of practice. (4 marks)

*Describe the activity chosen with respect to the 4 areas of practice and the examples provided in the ABCFP guidelines on the Scope of Practice (SOP) for RFTs. Make appropriate arguments in relation how and why the activity falls within the parameters described in the RFT SOP. Discuss and describe why this activity is within the RFT scope and not within the RPF scope. Make reference to the educational foundation required to do the work and relate that to the educational requirements for the RFT.*

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### Question 5 (Short answer)

You are doing helicopter access layout work tomorrow. You have to fly in, do your work, and then fly out in the afternoon.

a) What are your professional obligations regarding safety?

(5 marks)

*Could cite ABCFP Bylaw related to safety*

*12.7 Safety*

*12.7.1 Members maintain safe work practices and consider the safety of workers and others in the practice of professional forestry.*

*Being In charge of a crew and this day of work, the professional should consider completing a hazard assessment as a summary of safety related issues to be accounted for. These could include items such as:*

*Crew related issues*

- *Crew experience with helicopter access jobs*
- *Crew member health issues*
- *Crew members knowledge of area and ability navigate on their own*

*Environmental Issues*

- *Terrain Severity*
- *Creek crossings*
- *Potential wildlife issues*
- *Location remoteness and travel times*
- *Changing weather*

*Emergency preparedness*

- *Communications between crew and to the outside in case of an emergency*
- *First Aid training within the crew*
- *First Aid kit and location*
- *Check in and out procedure*
- *Chance of staying out overnight*

b) How would you implement these obligations in this situation?

(5 marks)

*With the hazards identified in hazard assessment, a plan to address them could be crafted.*

*Implementation could include elements such as:*

- *Conduct a safety meeting with the crew the day before*
- *Make a PPE checklist for crew members*
- *Make each crew member aware of their responsibility related to the safety of the day*
- *Take responsibility for key elements such as communications / batteries / map products etc.*

*A good essay will address a flow of events, rather than just listing things to consider.*

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## Question 6 (Essay)

As a forest professional what must you consider before giving a professional opinion at a public meeting?

(10 marks)

*Reference and illustrate the following:*

*How to meet the duty to the public:*

*To work to extend public knowledge of forestry, and to promote truthful and accurate statements on forestry matters.*

*To not to make misleading or exaggerated statements regarding the member's qualifications or experience.*

*To express a professional opinion only when it is founded on adequate knowledge and experience.*

*To inspire confidence in the profession by maintaining high standards in conduct and daily work.*

*How to meet the duty to the profession to:*

*Not misrepresent facts.*

*To state clearly on whose behalf professional statements or opinions are made.*

*To keep informed in the member's field of practice and to be aware of current issues and developments in forestry.*

*How to meet the duty to the profession to:*

*Abstain from undignified public communication with another member.*

*Not unfairly criticize the work of other members or attempt to injure the professional reputation or business of another member.*

*Give credit for professional work to whom the credit is due.*

*To share knowledge and experience with other members.*



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### Question 7 (Essay or short answer)

A matter has come before the Complaints Resolution Committee regarding professional misconduct by a member.

- a) Describe the complaints resolution process, and outline the legislation and ABCFP bylaw provisions that protect the person with the complaint lodged against them.

(6 marks)

*Process description to include:*

- Describe what is a complaint as per s. 22 of the act
- Complaint must be in writing and include particulars.
- Must meet the 4 test in the act – describe them and cite SS22(6)
- If complaint does not meet test in the act it may not proceed.
- If complaint meets proscribed requirements the member is asked to respond.
- Registrar and Complaints Resolution Committee (CRC) review the complaint and registrar determines whether complaint goes to alternate complaint resolution, investigation or if it is found that there are not sufficient grounds then the complaint may be closed.
- If investigated the standing investigation committee (SIC) selects an investigation committee (IC) to investigate and write a report to the registrar with a determination if grounds exist for a discipline hearing.
- If IC report finds no grounds and registrar agrees then case is closed.
- If IC report finds grounds the member subject to the complaint is given the opportunity to comment on the report.
- The report and response from the member is reviewed by the CRC and the registrar and the registrar must determine whether the matter should be the subject of a discipline hearing and issue a citation against the member.
- If a citation is issued it is sent to the member, the chair of the discipline committee and a hearing is scheduled.
- The chair of the discipline committee selects a hearing panel to hear the case.
- The subject member may tender a settlement proposal that must be approved by a panel of the discipline committee.
- The hearing is held and the panel determines whether the member did or did not contravene the act and/or bylaws. If the panel determines the member did contravene the act and/or bylaws the panel may impose penalties and costs against the member.
- The panel decision must be in writing.
- The subject member may appeal the decision of the panel to the Supreme Court.
- After the case is completed the registrar will publish a case digest on the ABCFP web site that summarizes the particulars of the complaint.

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*Protection of person (member) who has complaint lodged against them through;*

- *The complaint must include enough evidence to allow an investigation to proceed. This indicates that frivolous complaints against members will be dismissed (Act ss. 22(6)(b)).*
  - *The complaint must be in writing (Act ss. 22(3)) and be shared with the member (bylaw 14.4).*
  - *The parties must make reasonable attempts to resolve the complaint prior to a complaint being accepted (Act ss. 22(6)9d) and bylaw 14.3.4).*
  - *The investigation report is shared with the member (bylaw 14.31) if grounds are found for a hearing.*
  - *All of the information gathered in an investigation is kept in strict confidence from others (Act s.26).*
  - *The member may request alternative complaint resolution (Act s.23 and bylaw 14.16).*
  - *The member is provided opportunities to respond to the complaint and provide their side of the issues and submit evidence to support their innocence (bylaws 14.4 and 14.32).*
  - *The member is provided an opportunity to respond to the investigation report (bylaw 14.32).*
  - *The citation must specifically inform the member of the matters which will be subject to the hearing so the member clearly understands the issues (bylaw 14.40.2).*
  - *Members are invited to attend and to provide and present evidence at a hearing (bylaw14.38).*
- Members may appeal a hearing panel decision to the Supreme Court (Act s.30)*

b) How does this process protect the person that filed the complaint?

(4 marks)

*The process protects the person filing the complaint by;*

- *A complaint may be made anonymously (Act ss. 22(4)).*
- *The person filing the complaint may request anonymity (bylaw 14.6 and 14.7).*
- *The person must make reasonable attempts to resolve the complaint so that matters not requiring a complaint are settled appropriately (Act ss. 22(6)9d) and bylaw 14.3.4).*
- *The complaint must include enough evidence to allow an investigation to proceed so that persons who have complaints do not waste their time on unsubstantiated concerns (Act ss. 22(6)(b)).*
- *The person filing the complaint must do so in writing so there is no confusion as to who is involved and what issues are involved (Act ss. 22(3)).*
- *If alternative complaint resolution is to proceed the person filing the complaint must agree to it before it can take place (bylaws 14.1.5, 14.11).*
- *Once the complaint is filed the work and costs are borne by the ABCFP. The complaint process involves the registrar and ABCPF committees doing; the work of the investigations (bylaws 14.19 and 14.20); assessing complaints (bylaws 14.18, 14.28, 14.29, 14.33, 14.34), and; conducting hearings (bylaw 14.41, 14.42).*
- *All of the information gathered in an investigation is kept in strict confidence (Act s.26).*
- *The person filing the complaint is not named in the case digests published on our web site.*