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**Association
of Consulting
Foresters**

EDUCATED, EXPERIENCED,
ETHICAL PROFESSIONALS

July 14, 2025

California Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters Named 2025 Small Chapter of the Year

[Lynchburg, VA] - [The Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc.](#) (ACF) is pleased to announce the California Chapter as the recipient of its 2025 Small Chapter of the Year Award. ACF is a national organization committed to serving independent consulting foresters who manage forests and market forest products for private woodland owners. The association annually recognizes a Large and Small Chapter of the Year for their outstanding contributions to the forestry profession, the broader community, and the mission of ACF.

New for 2025, the Chapter of the Year Awards are sponsored by the [Sustainable Forestry Initiative](#) (SFI), whose partnership with ACF reflects a shared mission to advance responsible forest management and promote professional excellence in forestry.

The Small Chapter of the Year Award honors one of ACF's chapters with fewer than 20 members for excellence in engagement, outreach, and leadership and includes a \$500 honorarium.

Selected by a vote of ACF's Executive Committee based on annual reports submitted by chapters, the California Chapter was recognized for its thoughtful engagement strategy, innovative partnerships, and successful membership recruitment. In 2024, the Chapter aligned its meetings with the California Licensed Foresters Association (CLFA), hosted a specialized workshop on hiring and retention, and launched a targeted outreach campaign, including assistance with hosting the 2025 ACF Western Regional Conference and Practice of Consulting Forestry course, that led to several new candidate members.

"Our chapter may be small, but we are strategic, focused, and committed to growing the next generation of California's consulting foresters," said Chapter Chair Jacob Harrower. "This award is a testament to the energy and initiative of our members."

The California Chapter also strengthened ties with organizations like the California Forestry Association and Forest Landowners of California, actively participated in legislative and regulatory discussions, and helped bring consulting foresters' voices to the table in both state and national forestry policy.

"We are thrilled to recognize the California Chapter as the Small Chapter of the Year," said Rick Barnes, President of ACF. "This award is a testament to the chapter's continuous commitment and exceptional contributions to the association and profession."

The Alabama Chapter received the Large Chapter of the Year Award, exemplifying similar excellence within a larger membership base.

"I congratulate the California Chapter on being selected as the Small Chapter of the Year and appreciate all the chapter has done to further the association's mission," said Shannon McCabe, CAE, ACF's Executive Director. "I also thank SFI for their sponsorship of these awards."

The Large and Small Chapters of the Year were announced and presented by Pennsylvania [SFI Implementation Committee](#) Coordinator Chuck Coup during the Awards Banquet at the recent 2025 ACF National Conference in Lancaster, PA. Chapter members present during the event accepted the awards on behalf of the respective winning chapters.

"We're proud to sponsor these awards and celebrate the incredible work being done at the local level for sustainable forests," said Nadine Block, Senior VP of Network Initiatives at SFI. "ACF and SFI Implementation Committees share a commitment to strengthening our network of on-the-ground forestry professionals and fostering deeper knowledge exchanges across the United States."

ACF provides professional development, networking opportunities, exclusive communications, tools, and resources to consulting foresters. ACF members are the gold standard of forestry consultants because they meet rigorous educational, experience, and reference requirements as well as adhere to a Code of Ethics ensuring loyalty to landowners and their land.

For additional information about ACF, visit www.acf-foresters.org.

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About the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. (ACF):

Founded in 1948, the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. (ACF) is a professional organization dedicated to advancing the practice of professional consulting forestry and promoting the highest standards of professionalism and ethics among its members. ACF members can benefit forest landowners by enhancing property value, optimizing timber growth through sustainable harvests, maximizing the value of timber, enhancing wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, and protecting family forest legacy. Learn more at www.acf-foresters.org.

About the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI):

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) advances sustainability through forest-focused collaboration. We are an independent, non-profit organization that leverages four interconnected pillars of work: standards, conservation, community, and education. SFI works with the forest sector, conservation groups, academics, researchers, brand owners, resource professionals, landowners, educators, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and governments. Collaborating with our network, we leverage SFI-certified forests and products as powerful tools to help solve sustainability challenges such as climate action, conservation of biodiversity, education of future generations, and sustainable economic development. Learn more at forests.org.

For media inquiries or more information, please contact:

Shannon M. McCabe, CAE
Executive Director
Association of Consulting Foresters
shannon@acf-foresters.org
www.acf-foresters.org