



FOR RELEASE:  
CONTACT:

IMMEDIATELY  
ELICIA GOLDSWORTHY  
(707) 668-4430

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **RYNEARSON RECEIVES AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO CALIFORNIA FORESTRY**

*Adapted from California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Press Release*

(SACRAMENTO—December 13, 2021) Gary Rynearson of Green Diamond Resource Company this week received the California Board of Forestry’s prestigious “Francis H. Raymond Award for Outstanding Contributions to California Forestry.” Rynearson was 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. “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.

Rynearson is 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 serving as that organization’s president for 20 years. His project coordination with small private landowners, tribal members, and government representatives helped him to gain perspective and insight into forestry issues and forest community needs. During his time with NRM, Rynearson also served as president of the California Licensed Foresters Association (CLFA), where his interest in forest policy took hold. In 1990, the Board appointed Rynearson to serve as the chairman of the Professional Foresters Examining Committee, a position he held until 2004.

In 2000, Rynearson 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, Rynearson 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.

Rynearson was appointed to the Board of Forestry in 2000, reappointed in 2002, and appointed for a third term in 2006. 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 of 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, Ryneanson accepted a forest policy and sustainability management position at Green Diamond Resource Company where he led efforts to implement Forest Stewardship Council® certification for the company's California Operations. Working closely with staff at both Regional Water Quality and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Gary coordinated the development of long-term property-wide permits for the management of roads and stream crossings. 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 worked with company biologists for the approval of a Safe Harbor Agreement for the Humboldt marten.

Most recently Ryneanson worked to help pass AB 1492, which provides for an assessment on lumber to cover agency review costs for timber harvesting. He worked with Assemblyman Wood and the Yurok Tribe to pass legislation harmonizing state and federal law to assist with the reintroduction of the California condor to the lower Klamath-Redwood Creek area, and he worked with Assemblyman Chesbro to expand the fuel hazard reduction thinning exemption to the North Coast region. Ryneanson 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.

Ryneanson will retire from Green Diamond at the close of the year. "It was my distinct honor and privilege to nominate Gary for this award," stated Jason Carlson, Vice President and General Manager of Green Diamond's California Operations. "In his many roles as a leader and educator, Gary has had a positive impact across incalculable forested acres and communities within the State and his work will continue to benefit our industry and community for generations."

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.

*Green Diamond Resource Company is a privately held forest products company with roots dating back to 1890. Today, the company owns working forest lands in Washington, Oregon, Montana, and California. A subsidiary, Green Diamond Management Company, provides forest management services in the U.S. South and West. All lands owned and managed by Green Diamond are independently audited and certified for sustainable forest management. More information about Green Diamond's environmental leadership may be found at [www.greendiamond.com](http://www.greendiamond.com).*

###