

by Larry Ford, Chair, Cal-Pac Certification Panel
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I'm a CRM; how can I get Continuing Education Credits?

Many Certified Rangeland Managers (CRMs) ask how to get and record their continuing education to meet the requirements of the program. Usually they attend technical meetings and workshops, and want credit for doing so.

The CRM Program description, which was written by Cal-Pac and approved by the state Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, requires that California CRM licensees participate in continuing education, but does not specify how much or what kind of education, or how to record it (<http://www.rangelands.org/casrm/Assets/certifiedpageassets/1CERT2RQM.pdf>). Cal-Pac has no centralized mechanism to keep track of a CRM's continuing education. The national Certified Professional in Rangeland Management (CPRM) certification, which is a program of the national Society for Range Management (SRM), has more specificity in its requirements for continuing education. And they keep track for you, sending periodic reminders on whether you have recorded enough credits. Most California CRMs utilize the national CPRM continuing education system because it is easy to do so, they participate in both programs, and the national credits are sufficient for the California requirement.

Each CRM and CPRM is responsible to keep track of his/her own continuing education. If a CPRM, then he/she should follow procedures described by SRM (http://www.rangelands.org/cprm_public/). At many technical events, including SRM national meetings, CalPac meetings, UCCE workshops, and CRCC summits, the organizers have arranged for pre-approval by national SRM, and the registration desk will provide a CEU form to sign. Those records are transmitted to the national office, and after checking, credits added to each CPRM's records. If a CPRM wishes to have credits added for educational activities that are *not* pre-approved, then he/she can call or email directly to the Executive Assistant (Vicky Trujillo, 303-986-3309, vtrujillo@rangelands.org) at national SRM, presenting proof of attendance and the technical agenda/program, and asking for credits to be assigned.

Should small organizations hosting range-related technical events start asking SRM to pre-approve credits for their activities, then offer the form to sign at the meeting? I recommend "no," unless a volunteer is available to do so regularly. It requires significant work, and usually affects only a few CRMs and CPRMs.

If you are a CRM, you can get credit for participating in continuing education, but not through Cal-Pac. If you're also a CPRM—when you're at a big meeting, ask at the registration desk whether there's a formal CE list to sign. If so, sign it. If there's no form, keep records and send those records to the national SRM office every few years as suggested above. If you're not a CPRM, keep records on your own.