

Discipline Case Digest



Case: 2013-11

Subject Member: Registered Professional Forester

Referred to: Complaints Resolution Committee

Date of Decision: February 2015

Allegations

This case resulted from a complaint submitted in August 2013 about an RPF by another ABCFP member who was a former employee. The allegations were that the subject member instructed the complainant to modify plot data for silviculture surveys relating to plot locations and tree counts.

After reviewing the complaint allegations, the complaints resolution committee (CRC), referred the complaint to the standing investigations committee (SIC) and an investigation into the allegations was conducted.

Decision

The investigation committee (IC) looked into the allegations and found that the complaint was not well documented or substantiated. The complainant was not able to provide details regarding the specific blocks or openings on which the alleged incidents took place. The IC considered whether the allegations, if true, could be proven. The IC determined that even if a specific opening or block was identified, neither a review of existing data nor a field check of the survey would result in a conclusive answer.

A thorough review of the subject member's competence in silviculture surveys was not completed; however, he did demonstrate a good understanding of survey methodology in his response to the complaint. The IC finds no evidence to suggest that the subject member is practising outside his area of expertise.

The IC concluded, based on the information provided, that the subject member conducted his practices in a manner acceptable to the standards of the association. The IC found that there are no grounds for the issuance of a citation under Section 27 of the *Foresters Act*. This conclusion was supported by the (CRC) and the registrar.

This complaint is now closed.