



CALIFORNIA OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE

2007 Sudden Oak Death Education and Outreach Accomplishment Report

Educational and outreach activities continue to be an ongoing, cooperative effort, often coordinated by the California Oak Mortality Task Force, and including experts from all involved disciplines. In light of increased infection and mortality rates, Sudden Oak Death (SOD) activity and interest has been high this year. The SOD Science Symposium III meeting in March as well as the IUFRO *Phytophthoras* in Forests and Natural Ecosystems meeting in August each provided a forum for international collaboration and communication among scientists, policy makers, industry representatives, agency representatives, and landowners. Training opportunities for professionals were offered, with 2 spring wildland training sessions, professional speaking engagements, community stakeholder meetings, and nursery industry meetings. Community outreach was also extensive as numerous requests were made for local community meetings. This report details education and outreach work provided by COMTF outreach staff from January-December 2007.

- Conferences, workshops, & training sessions
 - IUFRO *Phytophthoras* in Forest and Natural Ecosystems (100 in attendance from more than 12 countries)
 - SOD Science Symposium III (250+ people from 24 states & 11 countries)
 - Wildland training sessions in Pt. Reyes (44 in attendance) and Los Gatos (80+ participants)
 - Nursery training sessions in Fresno, San Diego, Orange, Riverside, and Sacramento Counties (approximately 130 people across 5 sessions)
 - Over 20 local meetings and presentations in Sonoma County (860 in attendance)
 - Green Valley/Solano County community meeting (150 in attendance)
 - Woodside/Portola Valley community meeting (100 in attendance)
 - Los Altos Hills Community meeting (100 in attendance)
 - Hillsborough Community meeting (80 in attendance)
 - Hidden Villa Community meeting (60 in attendance)
 - Pt. Reyes National Seashore in-staff training (40 in attendance)

- Publications & materials
 - www.suddenoakdeath.org
 - monthly COMTF email newsletters (written, edited, posted to COMTF website, emailed to COMTF listserv, and presented to the California Board of Forestry)
 - SOD Science Symposium II Proceedings
 - California Nursery Training CD for use at nursery training sessions (noted above) and to post online at the COMTF website
 - 2007 CA Forest Pest Council Forest Pest Conditions Report (SOD section)
 - COMTF 2006 Year-End Summary Report

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 - “Sudden Oak Death: Facts, Impacts, and Regional Needs in the North Coast of California”
 - *P. ramorum* sanitation/cleanliness document
 - *P. ramorum* fact sheet for wildlife agencies
 - SOD update for North Coast listserv
 - SOD Literature Summary chapters (formatted and posted online)
 - Reviewed American Phytopathological Association (APS) SOD Fact Sheet
 - Drafted “Individual Tree Care Guidelines”
 - Printed an additional 10,000 “Stop the Spread” brochures
 - Updates to COMTF’s General and Nursery Chronologies
 - Book of Abstracts, IUFRO Phytophthoras in Forest and Natural Ecosystems
 - Book of Abstracts, SOD Science Symposium III
 - Western *Phytophthora* species playing cards
- Public outreach
 - Answered approximately 1500 phone calls and emails from other agencies, the general public, the research community, and industry
 - Presentations for 1300+ people at more than 30 talks
 - Provided support and materials to outside agencies and individuals, including: Acorn Festival; USDA-Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station; Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council; City of Walnut Creek; Mid-Klamath Watershed Council; California Conservation Corps (Ukiah); Kerri Frangioso (UC Davis-Big Sur); Vista Verde Community Association (San Mateo County); Humboldt County Agriculture Department; USDA-FS Southern Research Station; Los Altos Hills homeowners group; Butte County Master Gardeners; Oregon Dept. of Forestry; Covelo Ranger District; Ukiah and Boonville fairs; Marin County Farm Day; San Mateo County; Filoli Gardens; California State Parks; Hills Emergency Forum; Portola Valley homeowner groups; Woodside community; Friends of the Eel River; USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection, Southern Region; San Francisco Public Utilities Commission; Barnum Timber; Washington State University; Monterey County Fire Safe Council; British Columbia Nursery & Landscape Association; Humboldt County Agriculture Department; etc.
- Statewide coordination
 - Administrative support for the California Oak Mortality Task Force
 - Assisted new SOD staff in Sonoma County, including attending Technical Advisory Group meetings, reviewing report on Strategic Response to SOD & Fire, and developing and advertising community outreach meetings
 - Arranged and attended meetings for various groups, including: southwestern Humboldt/Mattole River watershed land managers; forest pathologists from Oregon and California; field trip to PALCO property -

representatives from US Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, and California State Parks; National Pest Advisory Task Force; California Tree Failure Report meeting; Humboldt County state parks/wildlife agencies; Marin County departments; Cal Poly San Luis Obispo researchers; Humboldt State University researchers; PG&E North Coast Vegetation Issues Review and Multi-Agency Meeting; California Forest Pest Council; and others

- Media & legislative assistance
 - Provided interviews, coordination and assistance to various media outlets, including: KQED; APS; “Save the Bay” documentary for PBS; Nature Conservancy; KWMR radio; KRSH 95.9FM; Marin Magazine; Monterey County Herald; San Jose Mercury News; Ojai Post; San Francisco Examiner; The Reporter; Associated Press; KMUD; “Written Right;” TV 50; North Bay Bohemian; Santa Rosa Press Democrat; NBC 11; Bay Nature; ABC 7; Landscape Contractor National magazine; Solano Magazine; Pt. Reyes Light; Benecia Herald; Fresno 40; “Statesman Journal” (Oregon); KLOV; Daily Californian; Marin Independent Journal; KCBS; Contra Costa Times; Big Sur Roundup
 - Created and distributed news advisories to major media outlets on all SOD-related activities
 - Provided assistance to SOD-related videos produced by Rutgers University and “Project Dieback” (Australia)
 - Coordinated information distribution through the Marin County Board of Supervisors
 - Assisted USDA Agriculture Research Service PIO Laura McGinnis with background SOD information

- Tribal liaison
 - Demonstrated stream-baiting techniques for Bureau of Land Management (Arcata) and Hoopa Tribal Forestry (Hoopa) and supplied them with stream-baiting materials
 - Met with Ron Reed (Yurok Tribe) to discuss watercourse sampling for *P. ramorum* on the Yurok Reservation in 2008
 - PowerPoint slideshow and handouts for Tribal EPA conference in Elko, NV (50 in attendance)
 - Interview with Hoopa People Newspaper about Sudden Oak Death in Humboldt County

- Research assistance
 - Surveying and monitoring field work focused on southern Humboldt County
 - Coordination with *P. ramorum* researchers around the country and the world